

Map of the Course and Photos of the Crews in To-day's Boat Race.—Page 9.

The Daily

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SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1904.

One Halfpenny.

MISS ADA REEVE IN THE HEYDAY OF HER FAME.



There is no more attractive artiste in musical comedy than Miss Ada Reeve, who is at once beautiful and clever. The charm of her manner is irresistible. Extraordinary success has attended her inimitable rendering of the song "Woman" at the Palace, with its catching refrain, "I'm one of you and I ought to know." Miss Reeve will begin a tour on Easter Monday in a musical comedy called "Winnie Brooke, Widow."

[Photo]

[Bartholomew Co]



Our special weather forecast: Cloudy, with cold north-easterly in most districts; slight rain locally. Lighting-up time: 7.22 p.m. Sea passages will be made North Sea, smooth in the E Channels.

# WOMAN-KILLER'S WILES.

How Crossman Lured Eight Poor Creatures Into His Net.

TWO WIVES IN ONE HOUSE.

His Mother's Garden as Burial Ground.

LAST WIFE TELLS HER TALE.

Probably much of the life-story of George Albert Crossman, whose diabolical crime was disclosed under such dramatic circumstances at Kensal Rise on Wednesday night, will for ever remain a mystery, but certain hitherto unexplained points have now been elucidated by a *Mirror* representative.

It is now clear that at least five women were at various periods led to regard Crossman as their husband. But, in addition to these, it was stated yesterday by the police that they believe that they have found traces of three other victims to his bigamous alliances.

Crossman's first wife died in 1897, and the certificate of her death was found on the murderer's body when the customary search was made at the mortuary.

Two Marriages in One Year.

In the following year, 1898, Crossman married again. He was then living at Ilford. His wife was a young girl of twenty-one, named Edith Osborne. In the same year Crossman went through the marriage ceremony with another woman at Maldon, in Essex. It was this bigamous marriage for which he was convicted at the Old Bailey Sessions in December, 1898.

Crossman's conduct in prison secured him his full reduction, and he was set free after serving four years of his sentence. At once he took advantage of his release to delude another woman, and he "married" for the fourth time in January, 1903, at Kilburn.

From that date until he became the tenant of 43, Ladysmith road, some five months ago, the whole of his movements are not clear, but it is known that when he entered into possession of "Sunnyside" he was accompanied by a woman who was known to the neighbours and tradespeople as "Mrs. Crossman."

Laying Another Trap.

By November, however, he was once more laying traps for another victim by means of a matrimonial advertisement in the "Weekly Times and Echo."

Through this advertisement, which appeared within a few weeks of "Mrs. Crossman" giving birth to a daughter, he secured his fifth wife.

With this fifth wife a *Mirror* representative had an interview yesterday. She unfolded the story of an astounding piece of duplicity—so astounding that, but for her word, it would be almost incredible.

Her maiden name, she said, was Annie Welsh; her home, Reading, where she lived with her parents.

Until the end of last year she carried on a correspondence with Crossman, who had replied to her under the name of "Frank Seaton."

"Seaton's Fascinations."

"Seaton" proved as agreeable as his correspondence, and on January 25 they were duly married at St. George's Church, Reading.

While they were on their honeymoon at Herne Bay she found a letter addressed to her husband as George Weston.

Her suspicions were at once aroused, and she opened the letter. It began "My dear husband," and spoke of a child. On his return Crossman gave a simple explanation of this letter, which "Mrs. Seaton" believed. He said that he was acting as the "go-between" for a friend and his wife.

Crossman's behaviour changed for the worse, however, and his cruelty drove "Mrs. Seaton" to seek refuge with Miss Hogg at the boarding-house, and from there she returned to her parents in Reading.

Just a month ago she made up her mind to go back to the man she imagined her husband, and he called and took her to Ladysmith-road.

She was surprised to find that "Mrs. Crossman" was also an occupant of the flat. Crossman, however, managed to explain matters with his usual skill.

Explaining "Mrs. Crossman's" Presence.

"Mrs. Crossman," he stated, was his cousin, whose husband had left her in a state of destitution, and to whom he had offered a temporary home. These two women lived in the same house for a month.

The inhabitants of the house at this time made a most extraordinary list. On the upper floor lived Crossman, alias Frank Seaton; Mrs. Seaton; the "cousin," Mrs. Crossman; a small boy, named Bertie, born of Crossman's first marriage; and a small child of five months, the daughter of Mrs. Crossman.

On the ground floor lived the new lodgers, Mr. and Mrs. Dell, and their children, while in a cupboard under the stairs lay the faithful box containing the body of yet another of Crossman's victims, and of the smell from which the Dells were constantly complaining. Last Monday Mrs. Crossman left the flat, taking her child with her.

Mrs. Seaton's distress, as she told the terrible tale of her experiences, was very evident. Her feelings seemed to have been deadened by the

shock of the discovery. She herself had been rescued from a fearful risk, and yet at the same time she was labouring under the conflicting emotion of a wife suddenly bereft of her husband.

The household was running short of money, however, for Crossman was in financial difficulties before his marriage under the name of Frank Seaton. He had paid the honeymoon expenses at Herne Bay by forging "Mrs. Seaton's" name and withdrawing her savings from the Post Office Savings bank.

A distraint was levied for the rates, and Crossman was obliged, in view of the possible results, to remove the box which contained the evidence of his crime.

He accordingly arranged with his mother, who lives at Cricklewood, to bury a box in her garden. She unsuspectingly gave permission, and it was with the intention of taking the box there that he engaged young Ryden and his horse and van.

Important as these facts are in unravelling the past history of Crossman, the police anticipate still more important developments from a new clue which they received yesterday. It is under-

stood that yesterday afternoon a porter, in the service of the Great Eastern Railway at Liverpool-street Station, made a communication to the authorities which resulted in his paying a visit to the mortuary where the bodies of Crossman and his victim now lie.

This man had a daughter who some time ago was married. Since her marriage the father knew nothing of her whereabouts, and on hearing of the tragedy at Kensal Rise thought his daughter might be the missing woman. It is stated that as a result of his visit to the mortuary he identified the body of Crossman as that of the man who married his daughter.

Inquest on Monday.

The inquest has been fixed for Monday, but the proceedings are not likely to extend beyond the formalities necessary for issuing certificates for burial.

Although the skull was found to be badly fractured, certain indications about such of the organs as had not been completely decomposed point to the presence of a powerful poison.

## BRITAIN'S DEFENCES.

MORE SCATHING LANGUAGE OF CONDEMNATION.

The third and final report of the War Office Reconstitution Committee was issued last night. It is prefaced by a letter to the Prime Minister, in which the Commissioners state that they have noted with satisfaction the statement of Mr. Arnold-Foster that the Government will, in all probability, accept their recommendations "en bloc."

The Committee state that the War Commission report revealed a condition of affairs which outraged public feeling throughout the Empire, and in finding a means of applying the remedy suggested in the minority report, they have endeavoured to uproot a system which had been scathingly condemned by the Hartington Commission in 1890, and which was directly responsible for the want of preparation for war, and the subsequent breakdown in the winter of 1899.

They unhesitatingly assert that if the recommendations of the Hartington Commission had not been ignored, the country would have been saved the loss of many thousands of lives and many millions of pounds, subsequently sacrificed in the South African war.

A Napoleon Warned.

After detailing the duties attached to the offices newly created by the Government, the Committee observe that the Secretary of the War Office will make such arrangements as will secure security where necessary, as "the War Office has for some time been notorious for the leakage of confidential matter."

The arrangements at the War Office, as disclosed by their inquiry, were unsatisfactory and inefficient to the last degree. It had been said that Napoleon, by the overwhelming force of his personality, destroyed the initiative and responsibility of his generals. The system under which the British Army had been trained hitherto had produced the same results, but the genius of a Napoleon had been absent.

There could be no doubt that the lack of initiative, which could be traced directly to the defects in our military administration, was a source of weakness to our arms in South Africa. If their proposals are accepted, and loyally carried out, there will, they say, in time be a total change in this respect.

## MODERN BLUEBEARDS.

Criminals Who Have Entrapped and Murdered Women.

Singularly revolting as is the case of George Albert Crossman, it exhibits in a pronounced form the characteristics of the type of criminal whose monomania seems to be the hunting down, preying upon, and slaughter of women. Like "Bluebeard" in the fairy tale, they marry, murder, and marry again and murder, till someone fortunately opens their cupboard, and the world is rid of them in due and salutary course.

George Chapman, as the Pole, Severino Klosowski called himself, suffered for a similar crime in May last year. He took public-houses, and after seducing his wife, he employed her as a barmaid would in a white tie of them, and kill them by the slow process of progressive doses of tartar emetic.

Twelve years ago occurred the sensational case of Frederick Deeming. It was of the same nature. On a short time after he deceived a friend of his first wife by promises of marriage, and his conduct was so brutal and menacing that she ran away. Again another succeeded her, who fled from him in scanty attire one night terrified by his threats. And in a few weeks a third, who stayed with him but a little while.

Miss Holland's Murderer.

The most remarkable recorded case was that of Samuel Herbert Douglas, who was executed five months ago. He was a superior scoundrel. He masqueraded as a gentleman sufficiently well to prevail upon Miss Camille Holland, who was of good family, to live with him.

He had the knack of making himself wonderfully attractive to women, and boasted in his early soldier days of how he won the affections of all he could entice. He treated his first wife brutally, and was callous about her death. Six months later he was on leave in Halifax with a young woman whom he spoke of as his wife. Some nine weeks later she died in a fit of vomiting. Douglas said her death was due to eating poisonous oysters.

On a short time after he deceived a friend of his first wife by promises of marriage, and his conduct was so brutal and menacing that she ran away. Again another succeeded her, who fled from him in scanty attire one night terrified by his threats. And in a few weeks a third, who stayed with him but a little while.

Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain, who are staying at the Villa Itea Hotel, at Palermo, are to prolong their visit for some days. The right hon. gentleman has requested the proprietor of the hotel to keep his movements quiet, as he wishes to enjoy his holiday unmolested.

## MASKED HIGHWAYMEN

MURDEROUSLY ATTACK TWO MEN AND SECURE £450.

The "smelly" North-country town of Widnes was the scene of an exciting affair yesterday.

Mr. Thomas Swinton, manager of the United Alkali Company, and also manager of the local theatre, was walking in a secluded part of the town with a workman, who carried a bag containing £450, with which the wages of the workmen were to be paid.

A trap drove up from behind, and out jumped two masked men in slouch hats. They at once began a murderous attack upon Mr. Swinton and his companion.

Both were rendered unconscious, and the robbers made off with the money. The plot was apparently pre-arranged. The trap they used was stolen from a Cheshire village, and has since been claimed by a gentleman from Lymm.

## JAPAN'S GRATITUDE.

National Thanks Voted to Admiral Togo and His Men.

The Japanese House of Representatives met yesterday, and unanimously passed a vote of thanks to Admiral Togo and the officers and men of the fleet.

Subsequently all the members rose and gave enthusiastic cheers for the Navy.

Anju is now said to be held by 3,000 Russians, and the Japanese are entrenched on the southern bank of the Anju river. The outposts of the two forces are thus almost in touch.

Russian officials are now apprehensive that the Japanese will land, not at Yingkou, but on the west coast of the Liao-tung Gulf, close to the Chinese railway, which runs north to Sin-min-tung.

If this proves correct, the Russians recognise that Japan would then occupy a fine strategic position, whence they could strike at the Russian flank, and, if necessary, hold Peking in subjection.

Rear-Admiral Anselme, of the Russian Navy, has stated: "We are about to make a great effort, and we are bound to observe the strictest secrecy, but with a clever leader like Makharoff we shall certainly do great things."

## CUPID, LIMITED.

Mysteries of the Matrimonial Agency Business.

The ways of matrimonial agents were revealed in an amusing case which occupied the attention of the Westminster County Court Judge yesterday.

A Miss Hermon, an attractive-looking girl, of good position, and with some £3,000 of her own, wanted a husband, and answered an advertisement of a matrimonial paper—"The Matrimonial Post and Fashionable Marriages Advertiser." She received a reply, and an interview was arranged with the proprietor, Mr. Charlesworth. He wanted to know, said counsel, whether she wanted a lord, or a count, or anyone else, and on his suggestion she paid a fee of fifty guineas, £49 of which was to be returned if no marriage took place within nine months.

She also signed another document which stated that, in consideration of Mr. Charlesworth marrying her to a man with £4,000 of £5,000 a year income, she would on her wedding day pay him £250.

In reply to the solicitor for the defence the lady said she did not suggest that the gentlemen introduced to her had no means, but they all wanted more. One suitor was a retired tradesman from Bourne-mouth. He told her that he was the proprietor of a boarding-house, and wanted a wife to look after it, to which she replied, "Oh, thank you, good afternoon."

On another occasion, she continued, "I went there and saw Mr. Charlesworth. He said, 'There is another young man to see you.' I replied, 'He is nice?' and Mr. Charlesworth said, 'Yes, dark.' When I went in to the man he was a West Indian negro!"

The hearing was adjourned.

## "LEGISLATIVE COMA."

In moving the second reading of the Shops Bill (which would provide a kind of Elysium for shop assistants), Sir Charles Dilke indulged in a "fling" at the Government. Commenting on their failure to legislate on the subject, he remarked that Mr. Chamberlain, after driving his enemies out of the Cabinet, seemed to have left the Government in a condition of legislative paralysis.

"It reminds me," he added, "of a certain insect whose stings occasions a condition of coma. The Government is at the present time in a condition of legislative coma, and this, in my opinion, will precede its speedy death." (Liberal chuckles.) When Sir Charles Dilke had finished there was only twenty minutes left for succeeding speakers, and Sir Frederick Banbury, the Government "blocker," talked the Bill out.

## IS EDALJI INNOCENT?

More Cattle Maimed at Great Wyrley.

ANOTHER MAN ARRESTED.

There has been another outrage on animals at Great Wyrley. This announcement brings suddenly back to the public mind the mysteries of a most unpleasant case.

At the present moment Edalji, the young Birmingham solicitor, son of the old vicar of Great Wyrley, is undergoing a sentence of seven years' penal servitude for being guilty of similar outrages. That they have not ceased at his incarceration gives point to the doubts openly expressed as to the justice of his conviction. The question will now be asked more pointedly than ever: Was he wrongly convicted?

That any sane person could for no conceivable motive cruelly torture unoffending animals is difficult to believe. It is true that in Ireland dastardly acts of this character have disgraced the country, but there it has been the work of ignorant men, whose worst instincts of brutality have been aroused by political passion.

Work of a Madman.

At Wyrley there is no question of any agrarian criminal purpose. The foul deeds were wanton outrage instigated by a mere blood lust and love of torture. They suggest the work of a cruel, crafty madman, not responsible for his actions.

The work of the police in tracking the criminal was obscured by various anonymous letters, many of which were undoubtedly written as a stupid, bucolic joke.

Intelligence does not appear to be a strong point with Wyrley villagers, and the earnestness of the outrages seems to have aroused fantastic superstitions and fears.

The feeling of terror will be increased by the latest outrage. Yesterday morning two sheep and a lamb, belonging to the landlord of the Star Inn, Great Wyrley, were hacked to death, and later in the day came news that the police had made an arrest.

The prisoner refuses to give any information about himself, and will be brought before the magistrates this morning.

## OFFENDED DIGNITY.

"Empire" Agitated Over Question of a Salute.

The dignity of Herr Leopold Wenzel, the popular conductor and composer of ballets for the Empire Music Hall, has been hurt. The management, for some unexplained reason, objected to his orchestra saluting him when he came in to assume his baton.

This slight deeply injured the artistic soul of the musician. Recently, when his engagement was renewed, he wrote a dignified letter to the directors, intimating that his renewal must be conditional on their removing the prohibition put upon his orchestra against the customary salutation being offered him on his entrance.

Now the management, after some lapse of time, has written to the conductor informing him that they accept his resignation, and Herr Wenzel is angry. In a letter which he sends round to the Press he tells the management that they must be well aware that his letter was not a resignation at all, and accuses them of subjecting him to a series of petty persecutions.

## LONDON'S CHILD SLAVES.

Alderman's Extraordinary Arguments and Some Criticisms.

Alderman Sir Thomas Brooke Hitching has taken up a position on the question of child labour which seems extraordinary, to say the least of it.

At the last Court of Common Council the by-law which permits licensed children to trade in the streets for seventy-eight hours a week in winter and ninety-two hours a week in summer, was amended so as to provide that in no case should a licensed boy trade more than forty-eight hours a week.

The reduction was strongly opposed by Sir Thomas, who also strongly advocated reducing the age limit for street trading from twelve, as proposed, to eleven.

He objected to reducing the hours of children's labour "too much," because "some of England's greatest men had begun work at six, seven, or eight years old!"

Mr. Robert Parr, of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, seen on the subject, admitted that here and there some exceptional boy had lived and thriven on his adversities. "But what," he said, "of the hundreds and thousands of children who have begun work at six, seven, and eight, who have never lived to be men and women at all! What of the other hundreds and thousands who have lived, but as dwarfs, crippled, and weak-minded, in consequence of their too much work and too little play and sleep?"

## DULL WORLD WITHOUT WOMEN.

Speaking yesterday at the meeting of the British Women's Emigration Association, Mr. Lytton Coleridge, Colonial Secretary, said that a country tended to be "bored" unless it had a large number of women in it, and because there was a predominance of women in these islands we had far more sympathy and grace than many countries which were deficient in women.

## TO-DAY'S NEW GLANCE

His Majesty the King writes Grand National yesterday, for Ambush II., started, but was won by Moifaa, an Austran at 25 to 1 against.—(Page 5.)

In the Japanese House of Representatives, a vote of thanks was una- nimally passed to the officers and Russian troops are believed to be near Anju almost in touch.—(Page 2.)

Some part of the Commons to the Private Legislation Proc- edure which was read a second time at midday.—(Page 2.)

One result of the royal visit to Trust in City-road was a r- easons drawn from all classes c- relate pleasing instances of her fulness.—(Page 3.)

The new agreement between land, and being arranged, ex- standing as to rights in New Morocco, and Siam.—(Page 4.)

Lord Rosebery left London 3 day, first visiting Gibraltar.—(Page 1.)

Fresh details have been bre- cing the Kensal Rise murde- r said that he had five-pos- the name of the victim found Osborne. The inquest takes p- (Page 2.)

More cattle maiming has tal Wyrley, causing consternation- tants. Late in the day the pol- Prisoner will be brought before morning.—(Page 2.)

Further evidence respecting factory at Lambeth was given yesterday. The two men char- manded.—(Page 6.)

At Widnes masked highway manager of a local company. They succeeded in escaping w- £450, and so far have not been i-

Lady Kennard's action to r- Harrod's Stores in respect of ce- to be stored was yesterday d- Chief Justice ordering an inve- lads-hip to be impounded.—(Pa-

There was commenced in a- ction to recover damages for- fined in Captain Burrows's l- of Central Africa, and plain-iffs, Congo Free State forces, gave hearing stood adjourned.—(Pag-

Final work done by the crew light character. The race is- morning at a quarter to eight.—

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It is said that Sir William H- large estates in Oxfordshire by- his nephew, Mr. Aubrey Harco-

Annoyed at being told that his- his hair was curled struck pri- vate in the 2nd Bufile incurr- He is now awaiting sentence.—

There has been loss of life oc- casioned by a tornado in citi- (Page 4.)

Madame Belle Cole is char- song, "Blue Eyes," which she- next tour of the music-halls.—(P-

"Blue Eyes" is reproduc- words in this issue.—(Page 11.)

Letters are still being receive- Bachelors" question. Selecti- these are given.—(Page 7.)

A medical man, giving evide- that there were many people- sight in one eye and were not- until they submitted to a test.

Bolton Wanderers, who app- Palace in the F.A. Cup final, i- which Arsenal at the Manor Fie- (Page 14.)

Matters were quiet on the St- South African market suffer- scare, and business was not- mining carry-over. Less confi- in American Rails. Telephone benefit from the suggested Go- —(Page 15.)

## To-Day's Arran

University Boat Race, 8 a.m. Hyde Park Demonstration ag- in the Trafalgar Square. The Glamorgan Society, London, and Windsor presiding, Cister- Recalling, and the London Athletic: At Queen's Club, Ox- Haydock Park, International Cross- Hockey: At Glasgow, England.



TO-DAY'S WEATHER.

Our special weather forecast for to-day is: Cloudy, with cold north-easterly breezes; dry in most districts; slight rain, sleet or snow locally.  
Lighting-up time: 7.22 p.m.  
Sea passages will be moderate across the North Sea, smooth in the English and Irish Channels.

TO-DAY'S NEWS AT A GLANCE.

His Majesty the King witnessed the race for the Grand National yesterday, for which his nominee, Ambush II., started, but was unplaced. The race was won by Moifaa, an Australian horse, starting at 25 to 1 against.—(Page 5.)

In the Japanese House of Representatives yesterday, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Admiral Togo and the officers and men of his fleet. Russian troops are believed to be well south of the Yalu River, and the outposts of the respective forces near Anju almost in touch.—(Page 2.)

Some part of the Commons sitting was devoted to the Private Legislation Procedure (Wales) Bill, which was read a second time and referred to Committee.—(Page 2.)

One result of the royal visit to the Alexandra Trust in City-road was a rush for lunch of persons drawn from all classes of society. Officials relate pleasing instances of her Majesty's thoughtfulness.—(Page 3.)

The new agreement between France and England, now being arranged, concerns the understanding as to rights in Newfoundland, Egypt, Morocco, and Siam.—(Page 4.)

Lord Rosebery left London yesterday on a holiday, first visiting Gibraltar.—(Page 4.)

Fresh details have been brought to light concerning the Kensal Rise murderer, Crossman. It is said that he had five—possibly eight—wives, the name of the victim found in a trunk being Osborne. The inquest takes place on Monday.—(Page 2.)

More cattle maiming has taken place at Great Witley, causing consternation amongst the inhabitants. Late in the day the police made an arrest. Prisoner will be brought before the magistrate this morning.—(Page 2.)

Further evidence respecting the alleged coining factory at Lambeth was given in the police court yesterday. The two men charged were again remanded.—(Page 6.)

At Widnes masked highwaymen attacked the manager of a local company and a companion. They succeeded in escaping with a bag containing £450, and so far have not been arrested.—(Page 2.)

Lady Kennard's action to recover £300 from Harrod's Stores in respect of certain goods alleged to be stored was yesterday dismissed, the Lord Chief Justice ordering an inventory made by her ladyship to be impounded.—(Page 6.)

There was commenced in the High Court an action to recover damages for alleged libel contained in Captain Burrows's book, "The Case of Central Africa." Plaintiff, a captain in the Congo Free State forces, gave evidence, and the hearing stood adjourned.—(Page 6.)

Final work done by the crews at Putney was of light character. The race is timed to start this morning at a quarter to eight.—(Page 14.)

On the resumption of the Pollard case, in which the King's Proctor intervenes, evidence was given respecting inquiries by a private detective named Bray. A further adjournment was ordered.—(Page 6.)

Miss Ada Reeve, well-known to London audiences, starts on a provincial tour at Easter with a new musical comedy entitled "Winnie Brooke, Widow."—(Page 4.)

In a Bowstreet case, prisoner, a female convict, who recently brought an action for breach of promise against a major, submitted the principal witnesses to searching cross-examination. On being remanded, she intimated her intention of calling six persons in defence, including her son.—(Page 6.)

It is said that Sir William Harcourt succeeds to large estates in Oxfordshire by the recent death of his nephew, Mr. Aubrey Harcourt, J.P.—(Page 8.)

Annoyed at being told that the way in which his hair was curled incurred official censure, a private in the 2nd Buffs struck a police corporal. He is now awaiting sentence.—(Page 4.)

There has been loss of life and much damage occasioned by a tornado in cities near Chicago.—(Page 4.)

Madame Belle Cole is charmed with the new song, "Blue Eyes," which she will sing during her next tour of the music-halls.—(Page 4.)

"Blue Eyes" is reproduced with music and words in this issue.—(Page 11.)

Letters are still being received on the "Wicked Bachelors" question. Selections from many of these are given.—(Page 7.)

A medical man, giving evidence yesterday, said that there were many people who only possessed sight in one eye and were not aware of the fact until they submitted to a test.—(Page 6.)

Bolton Wanderers, who appear at the Crystal Palace in the F.A. Cup final, pay a visit to Woolwich Arsenal at the Manor Field this afternoon.—(Page 14.)

Matters were quiet on the Stock Exchange. The South African market suffered from the plague scare, and business was not accelerated by the mining carry-over. Less confidence was displayed in American Rails. Telephone shares continued to benefit from the suggested Government purchase.—(Page 15.)

To-Day's Arrangements.

University Boat Race, 8 a.m.  
Hyde Park Demonstration against Chinese Labour in the Transvaal.  
The Glamorgan Society, London: Annual Dinner, Lord Windsor presiding, Criterion, 7.0.  
Racing: Liverpool.  
Athletics: At Queen's Club, Oxford v. Cambridge; at Haydock Park, International Cross-country Race.  
Hockey: At Glasgow, England v. Scotland.

WHERE THE QUEEN DINED.

Crowds Order the Royal 4d. Dinner at the Alexandra Trust.

WHAT THE WAITRESSES SAY.

"Has the Queen been in to dinner yet?" was the oft-repeated question which the smiling cashier at the Alexandra Trust was called upon to answer yesterday.

"No, she's a bit late to-day," was her favourite answer. "I expect she's waiting for the King." The Alexandra Trust, where the Queen dined well though not sumptuously on Thursday, was crowded yesterday as it never was before. Silk hats and frock coats were plentiful, and the wearers of them rubbed shoulders with cordon-roses, content that they had a royal precedent.

The one topic of conversation was the Queen's gracious visit, and the waitresses who had the good fortune to wait on her had the busiest time of their lives, so eager were customers in their questions as to the details of what the Queen ate, how she enjoyed her dinner, and what she said. And, of course, everyone wanted to be served by one of the waitresses who had served the Queen.

The cashier also had a busy time, for nearly every customer who wanted change asked for the



GEORGE ALBERT CROSSMAN, the murderer, who committed suicide when the Kensal Rise atrocity was discovered. He is reported to have married at least eight women under various names. The body in the cement coffin is supposed to be that of a former wife. (Drawn by a "Mirror" artist from a photo.)

money with which the Queen had paid for her dinner.

"But Sir Thomas Lipton has got that," said the cashier to the *Mirror* representative. "It was six shillings; five she put down first, and a sixth one because eight tickets came to 3s."

"Did you know it was the Queen who was buying the tickets?" asked the *Mirror* representative. "Of course, I knew her at once," said the cashier, smiling; "but I had to get three shillings for eight tickets."

"I did not know the Queen was coming until the last moment," said the manager of the Alexandra Trust, Mr. A. C. Pearce. Sir Thomas Lipton got a telephone message from Buckingham Palace about eleven o'clock, and he told me about one o'clock. I once had the King here just unexpectedly. That was on March 14, 1900. We have had an awful rush of people here to-day—people

BUYING TICKETS FOR THE 4d. DINNER.



The scene is the ticket office at the Alexandra Trust in City-road, where Queen Alexandra bought eight tickets for the 4d. dinner. All day yesterday the talk among the humble diners was all about the Queen's visit. ("Mirror" artist.)

of all classes—and they are all asking questions about the Queen and her dinner."

The 4s the Queen left for the girls who had waited on her was divided among Mrs. Macdonald, Miss Caygill, Miss Ricketts, and two maids who received the wraps of the royal party. Mrs. Macdonald, as the matron, received a sovereign, and the four girls half a sovereign each.

It is not likely that any of this money will be spent, for the recipients cherish it as a personal memento of the Queen and a souvenir of the event of their lives.

Miss Ricketts, a smart, pleasant girl, who waited on the Queen herself, told the *Mirror* representative that she would never part with the half-sovereign she received.

When the Queen Smiled.

"The Queen was so nice and pleasant," she said, "and when I handed her anything she smiled and said 'Thank you, dear.'"

"I have been answering questions all day to-day. All my customers want to know what the Queen did and said, and they all want to know how I liked the honour of serving her. I shall never forget it."

The little chap who got a shilling from the Queen because he stood in his soup and cried is the envy of all the customers of the Trust, and he was much tempted by liberal offers for the shilling he had received. But he stuck to his gift like a true, loyal Briton.

Many of the remarks of the customers yesterday were of a most entertaining character. "Say, Eliza," said one girl to her friend, "you'll have to be more careful. Your 'air ain't done in the right style. What would the King think of you if he came in to dinner?"

Another girl tried hard to have the seat next to her reserved, because she expected the Prince of

Wales to dine with her. And so the good-humoured chaff ran on.

The example of frugal dining set by the Queen on Thursday has been the subject of much discussion. An eminent physician told a *Mirror* representative yesterday that it would be well if her example were generally followed. "Nothing is more conducive to good health," he declared, "than simple living. There are not half the stomach troubles among people who are compelled to live plainly that there are among rich and aristocratic circles. You never among the masses hear of appendicitis, dyspepsia, indigestion, and a hundred and one other intestinal complaints from which the classes suffer."

How to provide a dinner for 4d. is a problem which the West End chefs may have to set themselves to solve, if the Queen's example in dining becomes fashionable.

A *Mirror* representative yesterday ate a dinner similar to that which the Queen had on Thursday.

The bill—4d.—compares very interestingly with



MRS. SEATON is the woman who lived with George Albert Crossman at Kensal Rise. He married her as Frank Seaton, in January last, and she is said to be his fifth wife. (Sketch from life by a "Mirror" artist at Crossman's house.)

the cost of a similar dinner at a Piccadilly restaurant, as will be seen below:—

The Alexandra Trust menu was:—

Ox-tail Soup	6 d.
Hot Roast Lamb, Mint Sauce	2 6
Bread	Free
Potatoes, Haricots	2 6
Plum Pudding	0 6
Coffee	0 6
	10
	8 6

In Piccadilly the prices were as follow:—

Ox-tail Soup	6 d.
Bread	Free
Hot Roast Lamb	2 6
Mint Sauce	0 6
Potatoes	0 6
Haricots	0 6
Plum Pudding	1 0
Coffee	1 0
	8 6

"This is a very plain dinner," said the chef under whose direction it was served. "It is very seldom that a customer will give such an order. Special, expensive dishes are always in demand, and I don't think even the Queen's example will result in any change. It would be a very serious thing for us if it did."

"WINNIE BROOKE, WIDOW."

New Musical Comedy Miss Ada Reeve Takes on Tour.

Miss Ada Reeve, most charming and popular of comedienne, is bidding farewell to London at the Palace Theatre to-night.

On Easter Monday she commences a provincial tour with a new comedy, with musical numbers, entitled, "Winnie Brooke, Widow," by Mr. Malcolm Watson and Mr. Herbert Fordwych.

Miss Reeve plays the part of a fascinating young widow who sets out to storm the citadel where a little band of would-be celibates have sheltered themselves.

(Portrait of Miss Reeve on page 1.)



It was in this cupboard that George Albert Crossman, the Kensal Rise murderer, kept the tin box which contained the remains of his female victim encased in a covering of cement. The illustration shows the tragic trunk.

(Sketch by a "Mirror" artist.)

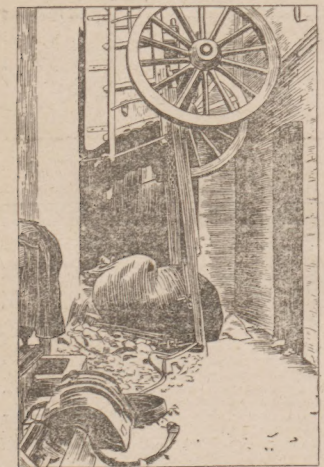


BATTLE OF "LA BOXE."

Quick-footed Frenchman Beats "Pedlar" Palmer, Who Takes It Badly.

There was a great amount of excitement in the neighbourhood of the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton, yesterday afternoon. The occasion was a contest between the popular champion bantam, "Pedlar" Palmer, and Louis Anastase, the light-weight champion of France in the art of "savate"—the form of self-defence or attack which admits of the use of either feet or hands, or the employment of wrestling tactics.

The Frenchman was the first of the contestants to step upon the stage. Anastase is a slim, but beautifully-built man, with well-developed shoulders. He falls away a wee bit as regards the legs, but this, one may assume, is of advantage in the practice of an art or exercise (call it which you will) which combines the agility of a ballet dancer with



THIS PRIZE PICTURE  
Is sent by Mr. Geo. Johnstone, Oxford and Cambridge Club, Pall Mall, in response to our standing invitation for photos of news incidents. It illustrates the accident in Pall Mall, when a horse and cart were precipitated 20 feet into an area. The cart stood upright on the tram-ends and the horse was killed.

the powerful leg-action of an "old man" kangaroo. The rules of "savate," as differentiated from those of English boxing, as drawn up by the late Lord Queensberry, were clearly explained to the audience by the referee, and when "Pedlar" Palmer, cherubically smiling—looking somewhat like Mr. Edmund Payne in a musical comedy at the Gaiety—stepped forward to meet his opponent there seemed promise of a very sprightly bout.

Palmer and Anastase faced each other. The word to commence was given, and before Palmer knew exactly what was happening the Frenchman's right foot had smitten him heavily on the nose. Palmer shook himself, like a dog on leaving the water, and promptly went for Anastase, pommeling soundly on face and body until time was called. Nothing done.

In the second round Palmer received several smart kicks, but he repaid them with interest, and the Frenchman seemed meditative as he went to his chair. In the third round both were cautious, Palmer keeping close, within striking distance of his opponent, and the Frenchman for the most part holding Palmer's arms, for the latter's thunderous body blows were little to Anastase's taste.

Discreditable Ending to the Fight.

In the fourth round, which bid fair to be furious, a dispute arose. The contestants were separated, and seconds and referee gathered in a group together, amid yells and great disturbance from the audience. Something had evidently gone wrong. But the audience was not kept long in suspense, for the innate and hot-headed "Pedlar" pounced upon the Frenchman, and to the shame of English sport, kicked him three times, and otherwise grievously ill-treated him.

There was a hush of amazement. Then the more unruly spirits behaved disgracefully. They hooted Anastase, who, in thorough sportsmanlike fashion, had gone back to his chair, and called for Palmer, who had left the stage.

The referee, of course, announced that Palmer had been disqualified.

It was a mortifying, a humiliating, moment. Luckily the proverbial English sense of fair play had been borne out by the decision; but as to Palmer? Well, he at least had the grace to admit, through his representative, that he had lost his temper; but it is imperatively necessary to say that he is deserving of the severe censure. Everybody seemed to feel this, and the theatre, which was plentifully sprinkled with police officers, rapidly cleared.

The match, as arranged, was for £50 a side. It is probable that Palmer and Anastase may meet again—the next time for a £100 stake.

FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

Under the new agreement now being arranged between England and France, Reuter says that France will renounce her territorial rights on "the French shore" and police rights in Newfoundland, receiving as compensation about three million francs and a strip of territory on the Sokoto frontier. In addition, Notes will be exchanged respecting Morocco, Egypt, and Siam, not in the direction of settling these questions, but to eliminate such elements as imperil a good understanding between the two countries. France will recognise England's preponderance in Egypt, and England will acknowledge the political and geographical rights of France in Morocco and Indo-China.

MUCH NEWS IN FEW WORDS.

During the past year 24,153 stray dogs were taken to the Dogs' Home at Battersea.

From Port Louis, Mauritius, it is reported that the British steamer Edenbridge foundered in a cyclone on March 19, but all on board were saved.

Last year there were 5,417 licensed victuallers in London, and during the past five years the average number of bankruptcies among them was forty-nine.

A house in which seventy political exiles had barricaded themselves at Irkutsk, in Siberia, was taken by storm yesterday, and of the defenders being killed.

During the past eight months the value of the domestic manufactures imported into America was greater than in any other similar period in the history of that country.

German troops in South-West Africa repulsed the Hereros on the Onatoko mountains on the 16th inst. Ten natives were killed, and the Germans had two killed and two wounded.

Two deaths from burning were recorded yesterday—a nine-year-old child named Emily Emma Haywood, at Clarissa-street, Kingland-road, and a woman of seventy-seven, Cecilia Bromsten, at the Home for Aged Jews in Well-street, Hackney.

In the Straits of Messina a collision occurred yesterday between the French steamship Amerique and the Italian ship Solferino. The Amerique was wrecked, but the crew of thirty-one and three passengers were saved.

It is not often that a man and woman collaborate successfully in a novel or a play. But Mr. and Mrs. Aspen have proved already by their serial stories in the "Evening News" and elsewhere that they are exceptions to this rule, and the publication of their new novel, "The Shulamite," by Messrs. Chapman

A party of 272 lads from Dr. Barnardo's Homes left London yesterday for Canada.

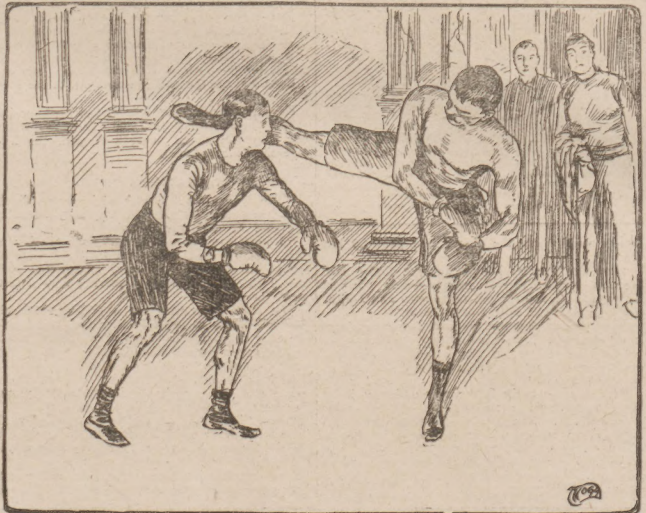
Orders for rather more than half the Army clothing contracted for were last year secured by London firms, and this year nearly two-fifths.

Sir Joseph Leese, M.P., has given notice that he will move to curtail speeches on private Bills in the House of Commons to twenty minutes for



TOMMY ATKINS  
In the dandy days when his headgear enabled him to display his fine curls by wearing his cap jauntily to one side.  
[Sketch by a "Mirror" artist.]

"PEDLAR" DOES NOT CARRY OFF THE "PALM."



The artist here vividly shows "Pedlar" Palmer artfully dodging a swinging foot blow from Anastase, the light-weight saviour-champion of France. The contest took place at the Britannia, Hoxton, yesterday. "Pedlar" Palmer fought under Queensberry rules, but was disqualified for reasons which show that losing one's temper often means losing the fight. The Englishman was steadily getting the better of his opponent when the climax came. ["Mirror" artist.]

and Hall will certainly do nothing to damage their reputation.

About 11,000 prisoners are engaged daily in productive industries in Great Britain.

In a letter last evening the Chancellor of the Exchequer states that there will be increase in the coal tax in the forthcoming budget.

Mr. C. Hardinge, the new British Ambassador to St. Petersburg, will be received by the King before his Majesty's departure for Denmark, when it is understood his Majesty will confer upon his Excellency the honour of knighthood.



MADAME BELLE COLE.  
The celebrated contralto, says that the song "Blue Eyes" which the words and music are reproduced on page 11—is "Just the song I have been looking for these years. It has such a delightful swing to the refrain." Sung by Madame Cole. "Blue Eyes" will "harm all ears."  
[Photo by Burrows, Oxford-st.]

TOMMY ATKINS'S CURLS.

Love Talismans Prohibited by Stern Authority at the War Office.

When the military authorities decided to do away with the jaunty forage cap which, to the supreme delight of nursemaids, was worn at an engagingly rakish angle by Mr. Tommy Atkins, there was much lament both in the ranks and out of them. The new Guards' cap, sternly utilitarian, found scant favour in the eyes of would-be warriors, and, as a matter of fact, recruiting fell off to a very noticeable extent.

The men of many regiments, however, still wear a forage cap very much on one side of the head, and are still able to display that wealth of well-pomaded curl on the forehead which has been in itself a love talisman for many years. It is not true, as is generally believed, that the men adopt the use of curling papers at night, although it is possible that curling irons may occasionally be employed.

Private Manning, of the 2nd Buffs, had a very fine specimen of the military forehead curl, or "bang," as the Americans call this adornment. The military police at Dover, however, did not approve of the ornament and reprimanded him. Whereupon Manning hit one of the police corporals in the face, for which breach of discipline he has been convicted, and is now awaiting sentence.



TOMMY ATKINS  
in the Brodick days when all his "butcher" alias "killing" curls are gathered up under a girldie cap. The twinkle has come out of his eye, and he won't be happy till he sets his curls out again. ["Mirror" artist.]

Which is very sad—recalling to one's mind, as it does, the sacrifices that the followers of Mars are ever ready to make so that they may find favour in the eyes of the daughters of Venus.

"BLUE EYES."

Madame Belle Cole Will Sing This Song in the Music Halls.

Referring to the song which, thanks to the courtesy of the Academy Publishing Co., is reproduced on page eleven of to-day's issue, Madame Belle Cole, the popular contralto, writes: "I am delighted with 'Blue Eyes,' which is just the song I have for years been looking for. It has such a delightful swing to the refrain that it is sure to become one of the most popular songs I have ever sung."

Mme. Belle Cole has had an interesting history. As a girl she sang in the village choir of Chataqua, U.S.A., and from there she went as soloist to the fashionable Fifth Avenue Church of New York. Visiting England in 1888 for a short tour, she met with such success that she has since made this country her home. Here she has sung before Queen and Kaiser, at the Handel festival, and all the great concerts.

During the last few weeks the popular contralto has been singing at the music-halls in London and the provinces.

"I at first regarded my music-hall singing as an experiment," she says, "for I did not know whether the songs I sing would be popular to such audiences. But now, although I am not abandoning concert singing, I am going round the halls again, for I find, to my delight, that at the halls they welcome my favourite pieces with enthusiasm. The people love 'The Lost Chord,' 'Killarney,' and 'Annie Laurie,' and these and Mr. Pellissier's 'Blue Eyes' I shall sing during my next tour."

MECCA OF SPORT.

The Crystal Palace during the forthcoming summer promises to be the headquarters of the world of sport. In addition to the Final-tie for the English Football Cup, the usual cricket and polo matches, bicycling, the home have been arranged contests in billiards, driving, golf, lawn tennis, fencing, cricket, bowls, Badminton, wrestling, gymnastics, and casting competitions in angling. It is hoped that several other games, some of them very little known in this country, will be arranged for during the next few days, and arrangements have been made for a large loan collection, illustrative of every kind of sport.

LONDON INSIDE OUT.

Byron Webster, who begins in the current issue of the "Weekly Dispatch" a series of articles under the heading "London Inside Out," has been one of the prominent figures in the centres of London literary life for thirty years or more.

He is a devotee of London. He is as familiar with its past as its present. As a Bohemian, he has had personal knowledge of all the Bohemians of his time.

LORD ROSEBERY'S HOLIDAY.

Lord Rosebery and the Hon. Neil Primrose left London yesterday for Gibraltar by the Orient Pacific Line steamer Orient.

CITIES SWEEPED BY TORNADO.

Cities near Chicago have (says Reuter) been considerably damaged by a tornado. At Indian Harbour three persons were killed, while a number were injured or are missing. Eighteen houses were blown down. At Thornton a number of persons were injured, one fatally, and two buildings were destroyed. The damage done at East Saint Louis, Grand Rapids, and Hammond was less serious.



# THE KING AT AINTREE FOR THE GRAND NATIONAL.

## Magnificent Reception of His Majesty by a Cosmopolitan Crowd.

### "GREY FRIARS" DESCRIBES THE SCENE.

AINTREE, Friday Evening.  
Enormous crowds welcomed the King, who had come to Aintree to-day to see Ambush II. run for the Grand National Steeplechase. His Majesty was the guest of Lord and Lady Derby, at Knowsley, and arrived on the course long before the first race. The King rode in an open carriage drawn by four black horses ridden by postillions, and preceded by outriders in the same race. There was a small escort of mounted constabulary. Thousands of well-dressed folk, among them some of the patricians of the Turf, and an unusually large number of ladies, formed a lane through which the royal carriage proceeded.

Enthusiastic cheering greeted the entry of the royal cavalcade, the plaudits of the crowd being graciously and repeatedly acknowledged by the King, who was accompanied by Lord and Lady Derby and General Scobell. The King, dressed in a heavy dark overcoat and bowler hat, and wearing a buttonhole of violets, looked in robust health. The magnificent reception reminded us of the wonderful scene witnessed here seven years ago, when Ambush II. won the great race. The horse was not fated to-day to repeat his triumph, but the enthusiasm aroused by the contest was intense.

#### Lord Roberts Cheered.

The remainder of the Knowsley party helped to form a regal and imposing procession. The cavalcade included Lord and Lady Roberts. The distinguished general, who looked fresher and fitter, and indeed younger than at any other period since his return from South Africa was immediately recognised, and accorded a fine reception.

The general attendance may not have been record, but its vast proportions caught the eye in every direction. The weather, lowering and cold in the early forenoon, brightened somewhat before the big race. Some snow had fallen in the northern districts, but there was neither snow nor rain to mar the popular enjoyment at Aintree. The King witnessed the early races with evident interest, and about half an hour before the Grand National came down into the paddock to see Ambush II., and his Majesty's presence among the people aroused another hearty outburst of cheering.

Ambush II. had been walking in the paddock. The horse's warm clothing was removed under the superintendence of Mr. Lushington, and the King, who was Lord Derby's guest, and the several ladies, keenly inspected the royal candidate. The horse, clipped as to the legs, the usual fashion with steeplechasers, looked in superb trim and pleased everybody, critics and ordinary spectators alike. The royal party then retired, and the King watched the race, not from the royal box lower down, but from a higher tier in Lord Derby's private stand. Before the way, were gaily festooned in crimson and yellow, and an abundance of flowers, chiefly clusters of lilacs of the valley and purple hyacinths. Laurel leaves, wreathed in picturesque lines, with bosses of multi-colored cloth, adorned the front of the boxes.

#### Ladies Keen Critics.

The wintry conditions did not prevent the crowding of the paddock, and experts from all parts of the kingdom assembled to pass judgment on the candidates. One remarked with pleasure that most of the horses looked well. Some of the keenest critics seemed to be ladies. They were in large numbers, and their gay toilettes—for there was plenty of colour despite the predominance of furs—enlivened the enclosure. It was easy to recognise the various horses, as all wore number cloths with the name and weights plainly stitched on the white in blue lettering. Ambush II. wore a white number cloth, piped in purple and crimson, with the Royal Arms embroidered in regular colours. The severe censor could scarcely cavil at the horse's condition. He was perfectly fit, and though quiet, indeed somewhat drowsy, he was lively enough when saddled.

Detail was examined with more than passing concern, as she had drifted out in the market, and some ugly rumours were afloat, but there was nothing seen to her prejudice. The mare looked right well, but she is so small! One wished she were bigger. Pride of Mabestown was thoroughly well trained, and the Gunner and Robin Hood IV. caught the attention as great, fine-looking horses, almost the ideal of high-class steeplechasers. Loch Lomond was voted one of the best-looking in the paddock, and it was a thousand pities that he subsequently met with a fatal accident in the contest. Patlander appeared in beautiful trim, and his Detail was booted on the fore-legs. Inquisitor pleased everybody, and about him there only remained the doubt of his standing up. He wore cotton wool bandages in front.

#### Manifesto Mobbed.

The long-tailed chestnut May King was not up to the same standard, but this hollow-backed horse was very heavily supported by his owner. Sir Compton had backed Uninsured, and with him coupled May King in some big doubles. Manifesto was voted a charming mare, and the veteran Manifesto, now in his sixteenth year, and holder of records in the race, was literally mobbed. Everybody seemed to be in love with the old fellow, and during the parade one enthusiast, becoming too familiar over the rails, Manifesto stopped and kicked by way of protest. Kirkland passed muster with great credit, and the New Zealander, Moifaa, was greatly admired.

Meanwhile the betting proceeded merrily, and ranged from the 7 to 2 against Ambush II. to a group against which 100 to 1 each was vainly offered. The first horse out was Band of Hope, a sturdy type of "hacker," and he was followed by Pride of Mabestown and the stable companions Cushman and Biology, whose presence in the race hinted, perhaps, that the owner is a strong believer in luck in the Grand National. The twenty-five competitors cantered, and for a preliminary took a hurdle before they paraded. As Ambush II. jumped the cheering showed the popular mind, and there was similar enthusiasm when Manifesto hopped over like a young one of the most accomplished school. The lot were mar-

shalled very quickly, under the starter's flag, and a minute later were dispatched. They set off at a tremendous pace, and disasters quickly marked the contest. Ralloff fell at the first jump, and Ambush II. came a cropper at the third fence. It is a thorn fence, gorsed five feet high, with a ditch on the take-off side about five feet wide and four feet deep and banked to the guard rail, which is two feet high. Ambush II. took off too soon, hit the top, and turned over. His jockey, Anthony, was not hurt, and the horse continued in the chase loose, and with disastrous effect, for he subsequently knocked down Detail.

In the second round Knight of St. Patrick refused at the second fence in the country, and a similar fate befell Inquisitor at the fourth fence, where Cushman also was grassed. Patlander was jumping badly, and came a purler at the seventh

### RACING RETURNS.

#### LIVERPOOL.—FRIDAY.

1.25.—COUNTRY WELTER-SELLING HANDICAP of 150 sovs; second to receive 50 sovs. One mile and a half. Off at 1.27.  
Mr. H. Hawkins's ALFAR, by Baldeonio—Cersaphim, aged, 10st 13lb ..... Mr. Ivor Anthony 1  
Mr. Allwood's COLON, 5yrs, 11st 2lb Mr. J. M. Bell 2  
Mr. R. C. Dawson's PREEN, 5yrs, 12st 2lb ..... 3  
Mr. J. Manley's Free Companion, aged, 10st 11lb Owner 0  
Mr. Lawrence Walker's Chase, 5yrs, 10st 10lb ..... Mr. H. Bailey 0  
Mr. A. Gorham's Minister, aged, 11st 6lb ..... Mr. H. M. Ripley 0  
(Winner trained by Rogers.)  
Betting—7 to 4 on St. Colon, 6 to 1 against Free Companion, 7 to 1 Alfie or any other (offered).

Alfar was followed past the stands the first time round by St. Colon, Chase, and Minister, with Free Companion last, and this order was maintained until rounding the bend

### THE KING ARRIVES AT THE RACES.



Looking well and happy his Majesty drove to the Aintree racecourse yesterday with Lord Derby and party. The King had a great reception, and the running up of the Royal Standard was the signal for general rejoicing to the tens of thousands present.

[Sketches by a "Mirror" artist.]

fence, Matthews receiving a nasty cut on the back of the head, which had afterwards to be medically stitched.

Loch Lomond came down such a purler, head first, that he broke his neck, and Pride of Mabestown slipped into the ditch before Valentine's Brook. Hill of Bree and Comfit also came to grass, and Kiora, who was clipped in eccentric style, like a poodle, on the back, was also among the unfortunates. Old Town fell, and May King struck full tilt against a fence. One of the loose horses, after jumping Valentine's Brook, ran into the canal. This corner, and, indeed, for that matter, the complete circuit of the course, was thronged with lines of spectators, and some of them rescued the horse from the water. Only twelve reached the water jump, which marks one round of the race, and here Moifaa took the command from Kirkland. There soon ensued more trouble, as Ambush II., who was still loose on the course, jumped simultaneously with Detail, and, hitting the latter, sent him almost impaled on the top of the fence, and thus extinguished Arthur Nightingall's attempt to win a fourth Grand National.

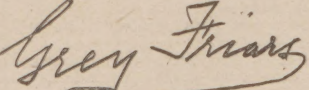
#### Moifaa's Fine Jumping.

Benvenier was going very well when she broke down, a mile from home, and thence to the finish the race was reduced to Moifaa, Kirkland, and the Gunner. The New Zealander, ridden by Arthur Birch, fairly revelled in the going, and treated the jumps with consummate ease. There were Irish cheers for the Gunner, but neither his efforts nor those of Kirkland could bring them near the leader, and Moifaa won a gallant race by eight lengths from Kirkland. Shaun Aboe was fourth, Robin Hood IV. fifth, then came Nahillah, and old Asantio ninth, that is to say, last of the lot who completed the course. There was plenty of cheering for it was a splendid performance, but it was not reckoned a popular victory.

His Majesty waited till the close, and will be present to see the racing to-morrow. Mr. Spencer Gollan and his friends have won a lot of money over the triumph of Moifaa, and many of our Epsom people who were committed to Detail and Patlander also took precaution to have savers at least on the winner.

### SELECTIONS FOR TO-DAY.

- 12.25.—Stanley Stakes—WINTERFOLD.
- 12.55.—Liverpool Hurdle Handicap—AUSTRIAN STAR.
- 1.25.—Apprentice Plate—MCCALLUM MORE.
- 2.10.—Liverpool Spring Cup—CAIRO.
- 2.40.—Maghull Plate—ZAMPA.
- 3.10.—Champion Steeplechase—LEINSTER.
- 3.40.—Four-Year-Old Steeplechase—KOLIAN.



#### OFFICIAL SCRATCHINGS.

Alfar Four-year-old Steeplechase.—Irving.  
Liverpool Spring Cup.—Biddison and Captain Boy.  
Maghull Plate.—Uncle Marcus and Sparring Boy.  
Stanley Stakes.—Lady Roy G., Astoria G., and Hand Grenade G.

Betting—11 to 10 against Irritate, 5 to 2 Lucky Girl, 7 to 2 Balance, 6 to 1 Fairy Sands.

Balance on the outside cut out the work in front of Irritate and Fairy Sands to the distance, when Lucky Girl drew into second place, followed by Fairy Sands, but failed to reach Irritate, who won by half a length; four lengths divided second and third. The winner was bought in for 250 guineas.

### 3.30.—GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE of 2525 sovs; second to receive 500 sovs, and third 200 sovs. Grand National Course (about four miles and 856 yards). A trophy, value 100 sovs, is included in the value of the race.

Mr. Spencer Gollan's MOIFAA, by Nator—Danbush, 5yrs, 10st 7lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 1  
Mr. F. Bibby's KIRKLAND, by Kirisham—Perigonia, 5yrs, 10st 10lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 2  
Mr. John Wadger's THE GUNNER, by Torpedo—Lody Windermere, 5yrs, 10st 4lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 3  
Major J. D. Edwards's Shaun Aboe, 5yrs, 10st 7lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 4  
His Majesty's Ambush II., 10yrs, 12st 6lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 5  
Mr. J. G. Butler's Manifesto, 10yrs, 12st 10lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 6  
Mr. Owen J. Williams's The Pride of Mabestown, 10yrs, 12st 10lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 7  
Lord Overbury's Inquisitor, 5yrs, 10st 11lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 8  
Mr. W. Nelson's Patlander, 5yrs, 10st 10lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 9  
Mr. White-Feather's Detail, 5yrs, 10st 7lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 10  
Mr. Horatio Bottomley's Cushman, 5yrs, 10st 7lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 11  
Mr. A. Buckley Jun's, Knight of St. Patrick, 5yrs, 10st 7lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 12  
Mr. W. J. Compton's May King, 5yrs, 10st 5lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 13  
Mr. F. Bibby's Comfit, 5yrs, 10st 4lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 14  
Mr. W. Hall Walker's Hill of Bree, 5yrs, 10st 4lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 15  
Captain Scott's Kiora, 5yrs, 10st 3lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 16  
Mr. E. E. Lennan's Robin Hood IV., 5yrs, 10st 3lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 17  
Mr. Horatio Bottomley's Biology, 5yrs, 10st 1lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 18  
Captain Michael Hughes's Band of Hope, 5yrs, 9st 7lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 19  
Mr. W. N. W. Gape's Benvenier, 5yrs, 9st 7lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 20  
Mr. F. H. Wise's Loch Lomond, 5yrs, 9st 10lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 21  
Mr. K. Henry's Ralloff, 5yrs, 9st 9lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 22  
Mr. Morris Crowther's Nahillah, 5yrs, 9st 9lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 23  
Mr. W. N. W. Gape's Benvenier, 5yrs, 9st 9lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 24  
Count de Madres's Old Town, 13yrs, 9st 7lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 25  
Mr. Barclay Walker's Honeycomb II., 5yrs, 9st 7lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 26  
(Winner trained by Hickey.) Mr. H. Lynn 0

### BETTING AT THE START.

7 to 2 against Ambush II. 25 to 1 against Comfit  
100 to 1 against Patlander 25 to 1 against Robin Hood IV  
100 to 1 against Detail 25 to 1 against Biology  
9 to 1 against Inquisitor 35 to 1 against Hill of Bree  
11st 10lb 35 to 1 against Band of Hope  
20 to 1 against Benvenier 40 to 1 against Kiora  
20 to 1 against Manifesto 40 to 1 against Honeycomb II.  
25 to 1 against May King 50 to 1 against The Pride of Mabestown  
25 to 1 against Moifaa 50 to 1 against Asantio  
25 to 1 against The Gunner 65 to 1 against Loch Lomond  
100 to 1 against any other

### PLACE BETTING (1, 2, 3).

7 to 2 against Ambush II. 6 to 1 against Comfit  
2 to 1 against Patlander 6 to 1 against Robin Hood  
2 to 1 against Inquisitor 6 to 1 against Biology  
2 to 1 against Detail 6 to 1 against Hill of Bree  
3 to 1 against Manifesto 6 to 1 against Band of Hope  
5 to 1 against Benvenier 100 to 1 against Honeycomb II.  
5 to 1 against May King 100 to 1 against The Pride of Mabestown  
5 to 1 against Moifaa 100 to 1 against Asantio  
5 to 1 against The Gunner 100 to 1 against Loch Lomond  
100 to 1 against any other

### 4.20.—BICKERSTAFF STAKES of 600 sovs; second to receive 50 sovs, and the third 30 sovs. One mile.

Lord Farguhar's AIRLIE, by Arshire—Lady Ernie, 4yrs, 10st 7lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 1  
Mr. J. G. Butler's Manifesto, 10yrs, 12st 10lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 2  
Mr. J. G. Butler's Manifesto, 10yrs, 12st 10lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 3  
Mr. J. G. Butler's Manifesto, 10yrs, 12st 10lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 4  
Mr. J. G. Butler's Manifesto, 10yrs, 12st 10lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 5  
Mr. J. G. Butler's Manifesto, 10yrs, 12st 10lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 6  
Mr. J. G. Butler's Manifesto, 10yrs, 12st 10lb ..... Mr. J. W. Wiggles 7  
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Mr. J. G. Butler's Manifest



# YESTERDAY'S LAW AND POLICE.

## 'CURSE OF CENTRAL AFRICA.'

### Libel Action Against the Author of a Book Which Was Suppressed.

Two gentlemen with military titles met face to face in Mr. Justice Ridley's Court yesterday as plaintiff and defendant in a libel action.

Much had been expected from their meeting, for it had been supposed that what they and their respective witnesses had got to say about one another before a jury would form a "cause célèbre."

The names of the military gentlemen were Captain Henri Joseph Leon De Keyser, of the Belgian Army, and of the Congo Free State Service; and Captain Guy Burrows, formerly of the same service.

The suppression of Captain Burrows's book, "The Curse of Central Africa," caused a great sensation some time ago, and it was generally known at the time that he had made some most startling charges in it against Captain De Keyser. It was with regard to these charges that the latter came to court yesterday to vindicate himself.

It had been surmised that not only would Captain Burrows and his publisher, Mr. Everitt, a co-defendant, seek to justify what had been said about Captain De Keyser, but that they would also impeach the system of government in the Congo Free State, and that the Congo Free State, through its officers, would defend its methods.

Neither event can happen, for Mr. Crispe, K.C., counsel for Mr. Burrows, after making an unsuccessful application for the postponement of the trial on the ground that important witnesses were away, withdrew his plea of justification of the libels.

Nothing remained to be decided except the question of whether the libels were technically published or not.

"De Keyser, of Handcutting Fame."

One of the extracts complained of and read by Sir E. Clarke, for the plaintiff, was as follows:—

Flogging a native by order of De Keyser at Boko, headquarters station of the district of the Arwimi, where the notorious De Keyser, of hand-cutting fame, was in command. Women were daily flogged for the most trivial offences. In one case five women were flogged because they wished to go a short way up the river to buy food, and for not having previously informed the commandant.

During his usual morning walk this sportsman was accompanied by a bearer carrying a shot gun. In proceeding through the villages on either side of the station, which extended some miles each way, the natives fled at his approach. If in response to his repeated calls they refused to approach him, he would open fire on any unfortunate men or women he might see. In so great detestation was this man held by the natives that they firmly believed that he had kept a native woman in confinement to fatten up, and that he had her killed and prepared for the table in order that he might experience what cannibalism was like.

Sir Edward Clarke, in giving a sketch of Captain Burrows's career, said that his real grievance against the Government of the Congo Free State was that he had failed to get a third appointment under them. Before he wrote the "Curse of Central Africa," he attempted to levy blackmail on the Congo Free State authorities.

Plaintiff having denied the charges made, the hearing of the case was adjourned.

## FLORINS MADE FOR THREEPENCE.

### Treasury's Account of Counterfeit Coin Manufacture.

Mr. Sims, on behalf of the Treasury, appeared at Westminster Police Court yesterday to prosecute Ralph Appleton and Frederick Booker on the charge of making counterfeit coin at their premises in Tyer-street, Lambeth, which the police raided some weeks ago.

In his opening statement Mr. Sims described in detail the alleged operations of the prisoners. Suspicion first fell upon them through the fact that frequently dense columns of smoke were seen issuing from the back yard of the shop which they occupied. Detectives kept watch on the place, and saw both prisoners frequently leave on bicycles, and return after journeys made to distant post-offices where postal orders, frequently for very large amounts, were obtained and changed.

At one of these post-offices in Newington, an officer hurrying in obtained the actual coins, consisting of three sovereigns, which one of the prisoners had passed. It was found on examination that each of these sovereigns had been "sweated" on one side only to the extent of six or seven grains. It was also discovered that many cleverly-made counterfeit coins of silver were also being circulated. These coins were of exactly the right weight and ring, and they were made out of copper discs with a welded obverse and reverse in German silver, afterwards electroplated with real silver, and then mill-edged in the most scientific fashion. A florin could be made for a cost of 3d.

Since the police had raided the prisoners' "mint" they had found that, to get rid of the "sweated" gold, the prisoners had inserted a newspaper advertisement stating they were dealers in old false teeth, platters' refuse, etc., and armed with this they succeeded in introducing themselves as respectable traders to a wholesale firm of jewellers, who bought the gold in lumps as it came from the melting-pot. Over £400 was paid the prisoners in this way by one firm in the course of a few months.

The accused were again remanded.

### OPTICAL DELUSIONS.

Giving evidence in respect of a claim for a lost eye at Clerkenwell County Court yesterday, Dr. E. Clarke said many people went through life with the sight of only one eye and did not know it. Witness cited the case of a Judge who was blind in one eye and only discovered it a few years since. Judge Edge: It is news to hear of a Judge being blind in one eye and not knowing it.

Dr. Clarke: It is so, and some of the most intelligent people are similarly afflicted.

## FEMALE CONVICT AS BARRISTER.

### Major-General's Cross-Examination by a Prisoner Who Unsuccessfully Sued Him in a Recent Breach of Promise Action.

Few women probably have had such opportunities of becoming familiar with the Law Courts—both civil and criminal—of this country as Sophia Annie Watson. But never during her various appearances in them has she shown to such advantage as when she was brought to Bow-street Police Court from Aylesbury Prison yesterday to answer a charge of perjury. The principal witnesses called by the prosecution had to undergo the most searching cross-examination by her, her questions being put with all the self-confidence of the most experienced counsel.



CAPTAIN LEON DE KEYSER.

who is suing Captain Burrows and others for damages for an alleged libel in the "Congo Atrocities," referred to in Captain Burrows's book, "The Curse of Central Africa."

(Sketches in court by a "Mirror" artist.)

enced King's Counsel, if not with such forcible logic.

Recently Watson came prominently into public notice in the role of plaintiff in an extraordinary breach of promise action which she brought against Major-General Terriek Fitzhugh, formerly one of the visiting justices at Lewes Prison, where Watson had been at one time an inmate. She claimed £10,000 as damages, but was unsuccessful. On that occasion she gave no indication of her legal skill, for she declined to go into the witness-box, and refrained from cross-examining the witnesses.

The Bow-street proceedings have arisen out of this action, for it is alleged that Watson committed perjury in her answers to certain interrogatories in connection with the case. These statements were to the effect that Colonel Isaacson, Governor of Lewes Gaol, communicated to her an offer of marriage on behalf of Major Fitzhugh; and that the latter subsequently, on a journey from Hassocks to Brighton, renewed the offer.

### An Unpleasant Ordeal.

Major Fitzhugh had to undergo a most persistent fire of questions from the prisoner when he went into the box yesterday. First of all, in answer to his counsel, he repeated the denials already given on his behalf. He stated that Watson first came under his notice when she was a convict at Lewes Gaol. On three out of every four occasions of his monthly visits there she was brought forward to say something. She was in the gaol from April, 1899, until September, 1900, and during that time he never saw her alone.

Since the prisoner had come out of gaol she had written him a number of offensive letters. After a time he wrote to her, telling her not to send him any more. She wrote to him about three times after that, and then was arrested and sentenced to three years' penal servitude. He then burnt her letters.

In explanation of Watson's statement that Major Fitzhugh met her in a train going from Hassocks to Brighton, the witness said that Watson got into the same first-class carriage in which he was travelling to Brighton. There were other persons in the carriage, and she said nothing to him whatever.

"Are you a member of the United Service Club, Pall Mall?" was Watson's first question when Major Fitzhugh's counsel had concluded his examination.

Major Fitzhugh: I am a member. You resigned the chairmanship of the visiting board before this action commenced?—Yes. So it hasn't injured you. Did you swear to the

jury that you were still chairman of that board?—No. I said you were still a magistrate.

Did you deny the breach of promise when the solicitor's clerk served you with the writ?—I told him I did not think it was worth the paper it was written on.

Did you ever intend to carry out the marriage?—What marriage?

Well—a marriage?—I should never carry out a marriage that I had never proposed.

You told the jury you kept my letters for three years?—One year.

And that you expected this breach of promise action?—No.

On November 25, when I was out driving with my son, didn't I demand an explanation of your conduct?

Major Fitzhugh explained that one Sunday afternoon he was walking along and Watson overtook him in a fly. She called to the driver to stop, but he told him to go on, and he did so.

"Hadden't I been to your house and seen your sister and the rector?" was her next question, to which the witness replied he didn't know anything about it.

You saw me off on the Brighton coach at the Métropole?—I saw you on the coach, but didn't speak to you.

Oh, no; you never did anything. We shall have to prove that. Lovers never do anything. I would beat them out and out if I were free.

The Witness: I don't know whether I can ask for protection from this.

The Magistrate: The questions are harmless enough. I don't see much in any of them. Still, I won't stop them.

If you didn't intend any promise of marriage, how is it you didn't send my letters back and tell



CAPTAIN BURROWS.

author of the book which forms the basis of Captain De Keyser's action for libel. One passage in his book states that by order of De Keyser women were flogged for the most trivial offences.

(Sketches in court by a "Mirror" artist.)

me?—Your first letters did not mention anything about marriage.

I wrote to you and told you after I received your letter you had caused me to incur certain debts which I should have to pay?—You may have done. I didn't care what you said.

General Fitzhugh then obtained relief from his ordeal, for the prisoner said she did not wish to take up the time of the Court unnecessarily, and would ask no further questions.

She then handed to the magistrate a letter which she said was respecting a book she had written on prisons, and which had a bearing on the case.

The magistrate observed that it appeared to be a letter from Lord Knollys from Buckingham Palace about a photograph which the prisoner said she sent him. It had nothing whatever to do with the case.

Colonel Isaacson, the Governor of Lewes Prison from 1896 to 1902, and now Governor of Manchester Prison, then gave evidence, denying that he had ever conveyed a proposal of marriage from the prisoner to General Fitzhugh.

Colonel Isaacson, in his turn, was cross-examined by the prisoner, but most of the questions were quite irrelevant of the point at issue. After other evidence had been called the prisoner was remanded.

## FINANCING A DIVORCE.

### Mr. Knowles Says He May Have Spent £5,000 on Behalf of Mrs. Pollard.

The seventh day's hearing yesterday of the Pollard divorce suit, in which the King's Proctor is intervening with the object of preventing the decree nisi granted to Mrs. Pollard being made absolute, was chiefly remarkable for the appearance in the witness-box of the Mr. Knowles out of whose pocket it has been admitted by Mr. Osborn, the petitioner's solicitor, the expenses of the suit have been paid.

His full name is Hugh Charles Knowles. In the course of his examination, he said that he had known Mrs. Pollard's sister for many years, and was introduced by her to Mr. Pollard. He went to Slater's to give instructions, and saw Mr. Henry. He first saw Mr. Osborn at Slater's on July 8, 1902, at which time he knew nothing of the Jersey business. He arranged with Mr. Osborn for the journey to Plymouth, and agreed to pay his fee.

In cross-examination by Sir Edward Carson, he stated that it was eight years ago that he was first introduced to Mrs. Pollard by her sister. It was at one of Fuller's shops at Kensington. At the time she was employed at one of the same firm's shops in Regent-street. He saw her there occasionally when he went to buy sweets. He never to his recollection, took her to theatres.

He had sent her presents of flowers, fruit, and gloves, but not jewellery. In 1901 he consulted Slater's.

"Why did you go there?" Sir Edward Carson asked.

"By choice," was the reply.

Might Have Been £5,000.

Did you read Slater's advertisement in the papers, "One reason of the success of Mr. Henry Slater is that, in every case in which he has been engaged in the Divorce Court for the past seventeen years, he always secures reliable, independent, corroborative evidence?" (Laughter.)

Witness: That did not influence me.

Were you anxious to get a divorce for Mrs. Pollard?—Was the next question. Mr. Knowles replied in the negative.

Were you not in love with her?—Certainly not. How much have you paid up to this time?—I cannot tell you.

Try £5,000?—It may be; I did not keep an account.

And you are running this case?—I am paying for it.

How much were you prepared to pay for Mrs. Pollard altogether?—I have no fixed sum.

You must have formed in your mind a fixed sum. How far would you go? Any limit?—I do not think I fixed myself at any sum.

Is that the kind of thing you would do for any woman?—Any woman I knew.

"You would probably find a large clientele," Sir Edward Carson remarked dryly. "Why did



MR. HENRY

is one of the windmills to be called in the notorious "Detectives and Divorce" case, in Sir Francis Jeune's court.

(Sketches in court by a "Mirror" artist.)

you keep shovelling out these hundreds of pounds to Slater's?"

"I did not press or hurry them," Mr. Knowles answered.

Do you still swear to the jury you were not anxious that a divorce should be granted?—No. What did you really think you were paying all this money for?—For watching Mr. Pollard.

Had you any difficulty in paying these large sums?—No.

Perhaps you had nothing else to do with the money?—Perhaps I had not.

"Why did you spend all this money?" was Sir E. Carson's final question for the day.

"To help Mr. Pollard, whom I have known for many years," was the reply.

The hearing of the case was then adjourned till Tuesday.

### LADY KENNARD'S INVENTORY.

On the resumption, before the Lord Chief Justice, yesterday, of the action brought by Lady Kennard to recover £300 in respect of goods alleged to have been deposited at Harrod's Stores, Mr. E. Wild said that, in view of admissions made by the lady, he must decline to go on with the case.

Mr. Gill, K.C., for defendants, asked that the inventory made by Lady Kennard should be impounded. The Lord Chief Justice said the action would be dismissed, and the inventory remain in the possession of the Court.

## TO EYE WITNESSES.

The "Daily Illustrated Mirror" invites amateur and professional artists and photographers to send IMMEDIATELY rough sketches and photographs of interesting and important happenings which may come under their notice at home or abroad. All photographs and sketches that are used by the "Daily Illustrated Mirror" will be paid for, but no photographs or sketches will be returned in any event. Express letter delivery or "train parcels" should be used whenever possible. Address:

### QUICK NEWS DEPARTMENT,

"Daily Illustrated Mirror,"

2, Carmelite Street, London.



AMUSEMENTS.

**HAYMARKET.** TO-DAY, at 3 and 9.  
JOSEPH ENTANGLED. By Henry Arthur Jones.  
Preceded, at 2.20 and 6.20, by THE WIDOW WOODS.  
MATINEE EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY, 2.20.

**HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.**  
Proprietor and Manager, Mr. TREE.  
TO-DAY, at 2.15, and TO-NIGHT, at 8.15.  
THE DARLING OF THE GODS.  
By David Belasco and John Luther Long.  
MATINEE EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY, 2.15.

NOTICE.—The Theatre will be CLOSED during HOLY WEEK.—March 28 to April 1 inclusive.—RE-OPENING MONDAY, when Mr. TREE will RE-APPEAR.  
Box Office (Mr. Watts) 10 to 10.

**IMPERIAL THEATRE, WESTMINSTER.**  
TO-DAY, at 3, and EVERY EVENING, at 8.  
MATINEE TO-DAY (Saturday), at 3.  
By Mr. LEWIS WALLER.  
A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE.

NOTICE.—This Theatre will be CLOSED from MONDAY, March 28, to SATURDAY, April 2 (HOLY WEEK), RE-OPENING on SUNDAY, April 3, with A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE.

**ST. JAMES'S.** MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER.  
TO-DAY, at 2.15, and EVERY EVENING (except Thursday, Friday, and Saturday next, at 8.45).  
THE HUNDREDS (2.50 and 3.15).  
LAST PERFORMANCE SATURDAY EVENING, April 9.  
ONLY MATINEES TO-DAY and WEDNESDAY NEXT, at 2.15.

PRODUCTION OF SATURDAY TO MONDAY, April 14.  
**STRAND THEATRE.** Proprietor and Manager, Mr. FRANK CURZON. A CHINESE HONEY-MOON (8 o'clock). By George Dance. Adapted by Henry Talford.  
MATINEE EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY, 2.15.

**THE OXFORD.** — HACKENSCHMIDT.  
World's Champion Wrestler. LITTLE TICH, Ada Cerio, Norman French, MIKE S. WHALLEN, Howard and St. Clair, MARK MELFORD, Sisters Jonghmann, BROS. EUBERT and other stars.—Open 7.15. SATURDAY MATINEES at 2.30. Manager—Mr. ALBERT GILMER.

**ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.** REGENT'S PARK.—ADMISSION SIXPENCE daily from April 4th to 9th inclusive. ADMISSION ON GOOD FRIDAY AS USUAL, ONE SHILLING.

PERSONAL.

**ETHEL.**—Sunday evening: meet usual concert.—**HERBERT.**—EXTRA.—Do not write again to 68, B. Rd.; have left for good.—**SPECIAL.**

**ELLALINE.**—Silence killing mother. For her sake send word where you are.—**BROTHER BOB.**

**WANTED** to purchase, volumes of the Weekly Dispatch, for each year from 1861 to 1919 inclusive, and for the years 1869, 70, and 71.—Address Mr. "Daily Mail Office, Cornhill House, E.C."

**CHARMING PRESENT** for lady: pure bred Maltese dogs; white; male and female; good pedigree; can be seen any time during day.—Enquire, 16, Abbey-court, N.W.

\* \* \* The above advertisements (which are accepted up to 7 p.m. for the next issue) are charged at the rate of eight words for 1s. 6d., and 2d. per word afterwards. They can be brought to the notice of the advertiser by post under Trade Advertisements in Personal Column, eight words for 4s., and 6d. per word after.

**HURRAH!! THE EMPEROR TO THE FRONT.—PERFECT.—INSTANTANEOUS. METAL MOUTHCASE-TRAINER (Patent):** sample in case (to fit without pocket) 1s. 1d. post free.—11, QUEEN VICTORIA-STREET, LONDON, E.C.

The Daily Illustrated Mirror.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1904.

GUARANTEED DAILY CIRCULATION EXCEEDS 145,000 COPIES.

FASCINATING CRIMINALS.

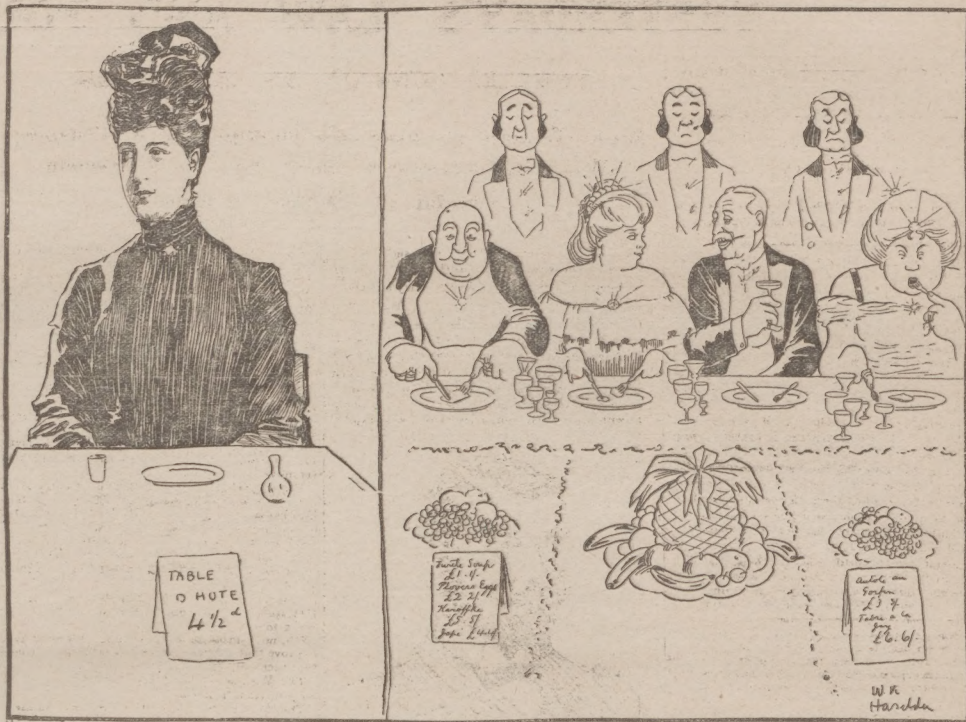
What arouses most amazement when we contemplate such crimes as those of Deeming and Chapman and the callous villain Crossman, whose atrocity has just come to light, is the fact that such men evidently exercise a great influence over women. Crossman, it appears, had been married eight times, and was looking out for another victim when the end came to his loathsome career. He had no difficulty in finding wives. He could have had as many as he wanted. What is the explanation?

Could any man who set himself the task of fascinating women and leading them captive achieve an equal success? Does the preponderance of women over men make it easy for any "general lover" to find as many susceptible hearts as he cares to break one after the other? Or is there something in the nature of criminals of this type which gives them a special hold over women? It seems difficult to accept the latter theory, and women would cry out against any dallying with the former. Yet the explanation must lie in either the one or the other.

The whole subject of the mutual attraction of the sexes is one about which we know very little. Why does a certain type of man attract many women, and a certain kind of woman draw all men to her feet, while other men and women would give half the years of their lives to be able to win a single heart? The physiologists and the psychologists are alike unable to tell us. Is it a bright eye, a rosy cheek, a firm chin, a good forehead? Does the secret lie in sympathy or in an attitude of mind, or in agreeable manners? Experience shows that no generalisation is possible. There is "a something," but we cannot say just what it is.

The pity of our ignorance is that creatures of the Crossman type can continue to prey upon society unchecked, so long as they escape the vigilance of their fellows. If we could only succeed in warning women against this particular type of criminal, much misery and many gruesome tragedies would be avoided.

THE QUEEN'S GOOD EXAMPLE IN PLAIN LIVING.



By eating a 4½d. dinner at the Alexandra Trust on Thursday, Queen Alexandra set the fashion in plain living and high thinking for the consideration of those plutocrats who dine sumptuously every day. Her Majesty's action exemplified the saying which enjoins intelligent human beings to eat to live, instead of living to eat. It is a moot-point who live longest and enjoy life most—the epicures of the West or the 4½d. diners of the City Road.

BREAKFAST TABLE TALK.

Mr. George Musgrove has gone to New York personally to select the chorus girls for the "Prince of Posen." He intends to hurry them over here before Mr. Chamberlain gets a chance of putting a prohibitive tax on American beauties in the interest of the English matrimonial market.

The members of the Orchard Campaign Club of New Jersey have given an "indigestion supper" with the most satisfactory results, many of the members being indisposed. If the club would only live up to its name and start an "orchard campaign" just before the apples are ripe it might do a good deal better.

HOME, SWEET HOME.

A number of correspondents in the "Daily Mail" bitterly inveigh against the shocking accommodation provided for the traveller when he lands on British soil.

Oh, England, Mother England,  
I am nearing home again,  
Your tall white cliffs are showing  
Through a driving mist of rain.  
Your face through years of absence  
Has been rendered doubly dear;  
But I rather hope they've altered  
The arrangements on the pier.

To sit for endless ages  
In the dirty waiting-room,  
And shiver, hopeless, helpless,  
In the all-pervading gloom,  
Is an awful undertaking,  
But one's fate is worse by far  
When one cannot get a whisky  
At the prehistoric bar.

At the bar you might imagine  
That a traveller might feed,  
But I never found it open  
In my hour of greatest need;  
And to-day I'm almost sobbing  
As I quit the heaving foam,  
Not a single thing is altered,  
And I know that this is home!

Some of the vessels repaired at Port Arthur are so hopelessly leaky that they cannot go to sea. There appears to be something the matter with the sticking-plaster supplied by the medical corps for the purpose. When Admiral Alexeieff promised to repair the ships he wisely refrained from denoting the exact sort of repairs that he meant.

Mr. Rockefeller, the Standard Oil millionaire, is said to have given up motoring because he smashed his car on the second trip.

He seemed a little bit upset,  
This great petroleum-seller,  
Though far from being "stony" yet  
He felt a rocky feller.

The "Sanitary Record" suggests that during this, the spring-cleaning, season, local authorities might do worse than issue a leaflet to householders containing useful information on the subject. Certainly, if someone would drop a hint to the domestics not to leave pails on the stairs and other shin-high obstacles in dark passages it might do something towards making our homes happier during a trying time.

WICKED BACHELORS.

Young Women Give Their Experiences—Young Men Express Their Indignation.

Letters continue to pour into the *Mirror* office from indignant clerks, anxious to repudiate the assertion made by "A Few Girls," that most men are immoral and worthless in other ways. The general retort is that these girls must have been very unfortunate in their choice of acquaintances. At the same time the men take the opportunity to say what they think of the modern girl.

"A Few Indignant Clerks" (Kennington-road) write: "When the few girls say, 'It seems that girls not only have to fight for their living, they might well have added, 'but they do their best to take the living away from clerks by working at a lower rate of wages.' Can anyone wonder at clerks not earning enough to marry and keep a respectable girl while this sort of competition is going on?"

"We cannot see how these girls make out that women are made mere playthings by men. Of course, men are not made playthings by women! Oh, no; no woman does such a thing as to encourage a man to believe she cares for him, and when he puts the fatal question, tells him, or as good as tells him, that she has only been playing with him. Now, who are the playthings, men or women?"

Woman, the Superior Being.

This view does not appeal at all to "A Responder of Women" (Hainault-road, Chigwell), who writes:—

"It is an acknowledged fact that woman is in every respect the superior being, and, as her inferior, it does not become man to criticise her ways."

The remarks which fell from Sir Francis Jeune struck me as being remarkably near the truth, but, of course, there are large numbers of fellows who lead pure, conscientious bachelor lives.

"If the Government would but purge our streets of its living temptations it would confer a blessing upon Christianity."

The question whether girls can be out safely after ten o'clock at night, and the further question whether they ought to be out at all at such an hour, are both hotly debated. "One Who Really Knows," writing from the Howard Hotel, Norfolk-street, is most indignant:—

"As to a girl not being safe outdoors after ten at night, I am afraid it is the other way about, for it is simply shameful the way women accost young men, and even lads. I think it is the greatest insult towards our sex."

Horror of the Streets.

"E. W." (Alpha-road, Millwall) writes in the same strain, advising "One Who Knows" to disguise herself in male attire and saunter forth into the streets of London and its suburbs from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. She will immediately bathe herself on her return in fear she may have become contaminated by the contact with the loathsome beings of her own sex."

"Shorthand Typist and Confidential Clerk" (Kensington) thinks that girls who are modest must "make eyes" at the men who molest them. "I do not for a moment think that the majority of men are moral, but I feel sure that when they are in the company of nice girls they will respect them, and it is only the careless girl who has anything to fear. As long as this world exists there will be immoral men and women."

"Before closing I should like to tell you how

much I appreciate your paper. I consider it has filled a long-felt want, and I have taken it in ever since the first issue. Especially do I like that very interesting serial, "At a Man's Mercy."

Miss Raymond, Manor-gardens, Tooting Bec, holds "One Who Knows" to be justified in her complaint. "My opinion is that; be a woman young or old, pretty or plain, she is considered a fine target for the class of men who frequent the streets after ten o'clock (and before!) if she happen to be unprotected."

"So strong is my feeling in this matter—and, indeed, my mother and sisters think the same—that when I tell you we have a very dear and beautiful sister playing at one of the theatres in London, and two of us make it a rule to go and meet her train every night of our lives, which arrives about 12.30 a.m., because we do not consider it safe or proper for her to do a twenty minutes' walk alone at that hour, you will, perhaps, understand how seriously we look upon it."

Slaters' Self-Sacrifice.

"My other sisters and myself have to be in the City every morning by 9 a.m., but, though going to meet our sister, we make it very late before we retire at night, we would rather have no rest at all than feel that she was walking home alone, and practically at the mercy of any stray gentleman (?) she might chance to meet."

Mr. Carlisle (Long-acre) takes a similar line. "We find it," he says, "a most usual occurrence amongst young ladies (so-called) to flirt at some dance or concert and lead a man on till he makes a proposal of marriage, then refusing him, and using words similar to these, 'As if we could not have gone on enjoying ourselves without thinking seriously of marriage.'"

"I should like to ask," Mr. Carlisle continues, "by what right they make themselves judges of man's morality. Young ladies of to-day appear to forget that in every matter of importance they should have no voice, the very religion that they take their standard of morality from teaches them distinctly that they have no voice in matters."

"It all amounts to this," says "One Who Dislikes the Average Modern Girl." "When women give up many sports and occupations, and spend more time in preparing for wifehood, they will receive once more the respect they have forfeited."

Hear what another correspondent says in even stronger terms:—

"It is an undeniable fact that girls themselves are largely responsible for the attentions they allege men, pester them with."

The Girl's Own Fault.

"The way numbers of them simper, giggle, and glance back at men passing them during, say, the luncheon hour in the City is simply sickening. Yet these are the first to cry out if followed or accosted."

Moreover, the dress of many business girls, with its openly-displayed charms, or, what is even worse, veiled suggestion, is bound to raise all that is bad in a passionate man. Nature will assert itself even in the best."

"Only a Woman" (Fellows-road, N.W.) quite agrees with "Shorthand Typist" about men.

"I have been thrown among men much more than the majority of women, or, as a young girl I worked as a student with them. Since my marriage I have travelled a great deal—very often weeks' journeys quite alone—and I can only say that, with all my varied acquaintances, and experiences among men of every class, I have the very highest opinion of them. I can only say if men are so bad, why have I never met a bad one among so many?"

"I have never yet had a man insult me," writes "A Clerk's Girl," "and I think it is the fault of the girls in most cases if they should be insulted, as a man can soon tell whether he has made a mistake or not."

"I must congratulate you on this, the best daily publication we have on the market."



# THE GUARANTEED CIRCULATION OF "THE DAILY ILLUSTRATED"

## SIR W. HARCOURT'S INHERITANCE.

Oxfordshire Estate Which Has Been in the Family Eight Centuries.

It is understood that Sir William Harcourt will succeed to the large Harcourt estates in Oxfordshire by the death of his nephew, Mr. Aubrey Harcourt, J.P., which has just taken place at Monte Carlo. On the vast estates which surround



Stamp collectors will gaze with covetous admiration upon this five-shilling Transvaal stamp with the King's portrait upside down. Such a mistake is unique, and there will probably never be another made like it. This stamp was obtained from the Johannesburg post office by a solicitor in the ordinary way of business. Mr. D. Field, of the Royal Arcade, Old Bond-street, has two specimens of this interesting error.

[From photo for the "Mirror,"

the village of Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire, the descendants of the ancient family of Harcourt have lived since the reign of Stephen. The remains of the Manor House date principally from the time of Henry IV. The kitchen is the most remarkable feature, and its extinguisher roof rising out of the trees has a very peculiar appearance in the

## KNOWSLEY HALL, WHERE OUR SPORTSMAN KING WAS LORD DERBY'S GUEST.



In this stately home of the English aristocracy King Edward stayed yesterday with Lord and Lady Derby. The occasion of the visit was the running of the Grand National, which his Majesty attended. Knowsley is one of the stateliest homes of the English aristocracy, and is situated on the edge of the black country in Lancashire. [for the "Mirror,"

From photo]

centuries. In a little room at the top of another part of the house Pope found congenial seclusion for translating the fifth book of Homer. The Harcourts had deserted the old place many years before, and the poet had the ruinous house all to

## MISS ISABEL JAY, THE NIGHTINGALE OF "DALY'S."

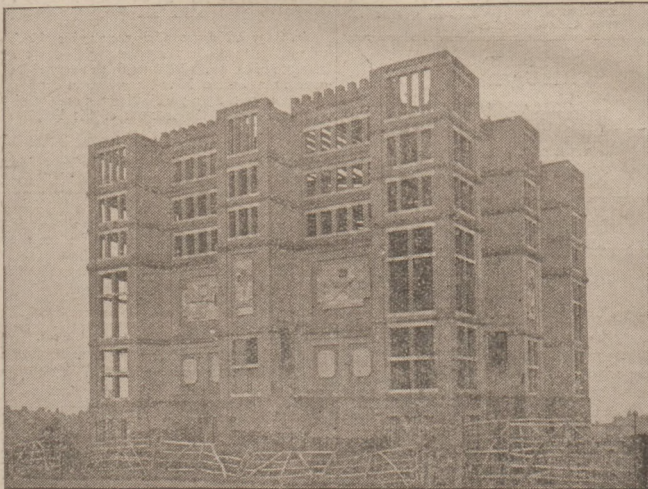


As "Patricia Vane" in the "Cingalee" at Daly's Theatre, Miss Isabel Jay is winning more laurels for her fame. Playgoers are pleased that she elected to return to the stage after the famous "Planchette" case, in which she was the most charming witness.

distance. There are no shafts or flues by which the smoke from fires within the building can escape. The kitchen itself is nothing more than a great square chimney with a conical top. The inside of the extinguisher and the interior walls of this primitive apartment are black with the soot of

himself. In the vicinity are the parish stocks, where they still remain unprotected, rotting by the side of the road. It is believed that Sir William will also inherit the beautiful domain of Nuneham Park, Abingdon, which was also the property of his nephew.

## CHATHAM'S "TOWER OF BABEL."



One of the sights of Chatham is the huge unfinished Jezreel's tower. It was built by the founder of a religious sect with the idea that his followers should there await the Second Advent, but the War Office stopped the builders, as the structure dominated Chatham's forts. [for the "Mirror,"

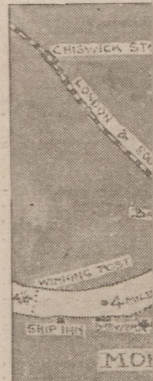
From photo]

## FLOWER FARMING IN THE SCILLY ISLES.



In years past Covent Garden used to be beautified by a wealth of flowers from the Scilly Isles. But the market is now glutted, and narcissi and daffodils that once fetched 6/- a dozen bunches now only bring 1/-. This hardly pays the carriage, and the floriculturists of Scilly are feeling very "nettled." [the "Mirror,"

From Photo for]



The above graph in the water track. Sketched by a]



The Cambridge

OXI



It is an axlom in boat r



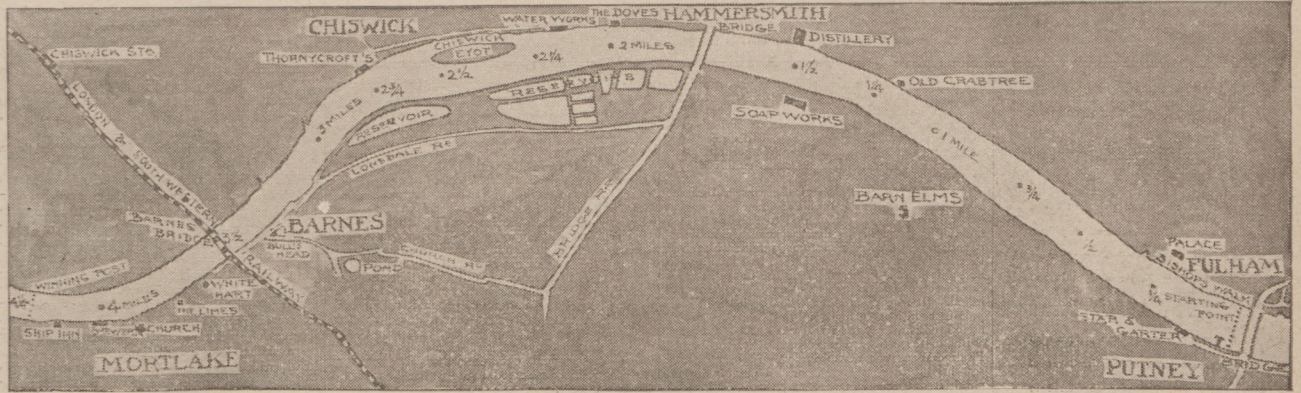
Every move of the oars



# THE "DAILY ILLUSTRATED MIRROR" EXCEEDS 145,000 COPIES PER DAY.

GUEST.

## MAP OF THE COURSE IN TO-DAY'S OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE BOAT RACE.



The above graphic sketch of the  $\frac{1}{4}$  miles of Thames, over which the inter-University Boat Race will be rowed to-day, presents to the eye a vivid outline of the various stages in the water track. The distance from Putney Bridge to the winning post is here divided in quarter mile stages, so as to enable spectators to gauge the speed of the race as the crews pass the specified points.  
*Sketches by a* *"Mirror" artist.*

### THE "LIGHT BLUE" FAVOURITES—



The Cambridge Crew look a fit lot of fellows in their rowing attire—plus ample mufflers.

### —AND THEIR "DARK BLUE" DANGEROUS RIVALS.



Those who fancy the Oxford men may find encouragement in scanning these cool, confident faces.

### OXFORD PRACTISING THE STARTING ART.



It is an axiom in boat racing that a good beginner is a good ender. The Oxford men are here perfecting their skill in starting.

### CAMBRIDGE SHOULDERING THEIR OARS.



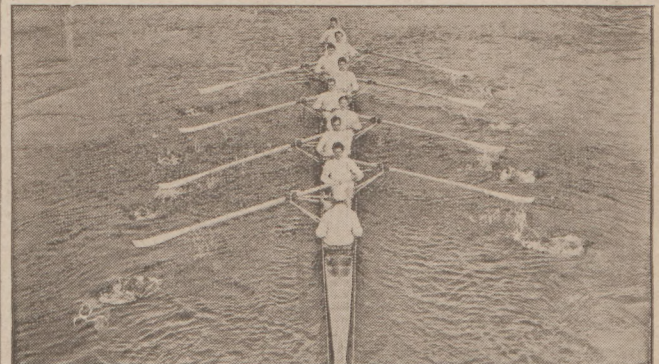
This illustration shows the "Light Blues" getting into their element. They do not hire men to carry down their oars, but trust only themselves with the precious blades.

### TAKING THE WATER.



Every move of the oarsmen is watched by crowds as the race draws near. In this picture a lady is snapping four men in the Cambridge boat—and two in the water.

### A LONG PULL AND A STRONG PULL



In this clear illustration the Cambridge men are displaying their fine form in a practice spurt. The picture makes the positions of the men plain. *[Photos for the "Mirror"]*



To be continued on Monday



# THE SONG THAT REACHED MME. BELLE COLE'S HEART. [See page 4]

## "BLUE-EYES."

Words by  
HERBERT FORDWYCH.

Music by  
H. G. PÉLISSIER

Tempo di Valse

VOICE

PIANO

*mf* *Moderato*

A bo - by boy with eyes of blue clings

*Moderato*

to his mother's knee His ti - ny face with mischief all a - glow As

CHORUS.

*mf a tempo.*

Blue eyes my ba - by boy

*mf a tempo.*

True gold with out al - loy

Mo - ther's pride and mo - ther's joy Your

love I prize

2  
The babe has grown: a schoolboy now appears upon the scene,  
His eyes as full of mischief as of yore.  
He'll tease and torment freely, but is never false or mean,  
And loves his darling mother more and more.  
And while the rasal plots and schemes beneath the loving eye  
She sings this song within her heart as every hour goes by:  
Chorus.

3  
The years roll on: the schoolboy is a gallant soldier now,  
He leaves his mother's side at duty's call  
And far away in other lands is teaching nations how  
Old England's sons can fight and beat them all!  
And while her darling toils and strives his country's peace to  
earn,  
She sighs a prayer across the sea to speed his safe return:  
Chorus.

4  
There comes a day when silence reigns, for mother's voice is still,  
The dear familiar strain is heard no more  
Till "Blue-eyes" weds a blue-eyed maid, and now they softly trill  
In lullaby the sweet refrain of yore,  
As hand in hand beside the cot they take a loving peep  
At little baby Blue-eyes as he lies there fast asleep:  
Chorus.

[ 2 ]

hap - py as a king he laughs and coos in child - ish glee While

mo - ther plays with him as peek - a - bo And

when the ti - ny eye - lids close and slum - ber 'gins to creep She

*slower.*

croons this lul - la - by, to send her lit - tle one to sleep.

*rit. molto*

[ 3 ]

An - gels will guard your rest

Hea - ven your dreams has blessed,

Nes - tie down to mo - ther's breast, Blue - eyes

Blue - eyes. eyes.



## A PAGE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO WOMEN.

SMART EVENING  
TOILETTES.SOME HINTS THAT SHOULD BE  
ACCEPTABLE.

The greatest difficulty that the modern woman has to contend with, in meeting the demands of her wardrobe on a very limited amount, is to provide a sufficient change of suitable evening dresses. To her, thus situated, it must be a matter of regret that the traditional black silk or satin, the original cost of which was often two guineas a yard, and which did duty on all occasions, is no

longer handed down with the family jewels, and passed from one generation to another as a heirloom.

Nor is the muslin garibaldi, neatly tucked and trimmed with valenciennes lace and baby ribbon, a fitting garb for the young lady of to-day. It was considered and often proved ample adornment for girlish grandmothers, and—possibly—in its very simplicity, suited better the fresh innocent faces and retiring manners of a former age than would the elaborate creations of chiffon and embroidery which are looked upon as suitable raiments for our modern maidens.

Autre temps, autres mœurs! The age of simplicity is past, and we are forced to consider how to meet with the requirements of an



The lovely black lace dress shown above is mounted on pink tulle and is trimmed with ruffles of rose-pink tulle at the hem of each flounce and rosettes of the same fabric from the décolletage downwards.



A very smart hat of pale brown straw, trimmed with white and blue taffetas and a blue quill.

epoch which combines fastidious taste with a demand for constant variety. To all whom it may concern: In the matter of evening toilettes an outlay in material at the outset often means economy in the long run. The diaphanous evening gown has but one life, usually a very short one.

It requires a foundation of silk, and many expensive accessories in light shoes, stockings, etc., and is, moreover, constantly in the hands of the cleaner.

## Simplicity Most Effective.

Now, the evening dress that is made of silk, velvet, or one of the heavier makes of material needs little beyond itself. A simple berthe of lace, a fichu and sleeves of chiffon, a corsage outlined in sequined net or embroidery—any one of these forms a sufficient relief to its severity, and is the more effective if not overdone.

That is its one life; but we could follow the evening dress of this description through as many almost as the proverbial cat. Its second would be merely a slight modification in style and re-arrangement of trimming or the substitution of one form for another.

## A Sandwich of Chiffon.

Then would follow its complete metamorphosis when, provided it was silk, and of a good colour, it would be veiled in net or lace of a white or creamy shade, and the final triumph of an honourable career would be its reappearance as a foundation to a black lace or voile overskirt, content in its decadence, like many another, to fulfil its part in the humbler functions of life, and to suggest utility, rather than adornment. The absolute desirability of the introduction of some form of muslin or chiffon between a lace overskirt and its foundation is not sufficiently appreciated. In using black over white, its value in the general result cannot be over-estimated.

A fine white muslin thus introduced gives a softness of effect which could not be obtained from any make of silk. Indeed, a fold of

coloured chiffon between the black and white gives a charming suggestion of colour, iridescent rather than defined—a consummation devoutly to be desired in all matters of dress. With this idea in view, it would be well to consider whether our discarded chiffons are not worth a place in that box of mystery, labelled "Things that may be of use."

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SOCIAL  
PEEP-SHOW.

There was a good deal of disappointment at Aintree yesterday over the King's ill-luck, which he, however, bore with his proverbial good humour, going into the Paddock to congratulate the winner personally.

Although the weather was bad, the attendance was as big as usual. Lady Castlereagh, Lady Helen Stavordale, the Duchess of Westminster, Mrs. George Keppel, and Miss Agatha Thynne were the prettiest women there, and among others present were Lady Derby, Lady Londonderry, Lady Roberts, Lady Lurgan, Lord Farquhar, Lord Stanley, Lord Durham, Lord Castlereagh, and Lord Hindlip.

## Royal House-Parties.

When the King is staying with any of his subjects the ordinary routine of the house is naturally a good deal altered. For the nonce the master and mistress of the house are the King's guests,

Every evening before dinner he sends to specially request them and their house-party to dine with him. His host goes up and escorts the royal guest down to dinner.

When the Queen is present she goes in first, but when the King is alone he leads the way with his hostess, and the host brings up the rear. Dinner on these occasions is never served much before nine o'clock, and the menu is never a long one.

After dinner the King only smokes one cigar or cigarette before rejoining the ladies, when a game of bridge invariably takes place.

## Favourite Books.

Before retiring for the night the King always reads some book for a short time. Just recently he has been deeply interested and not altogether pleased with that much-discussed book, "The Creevey Papers."

This, by the way, was one of the last books read by the late Duke of Cambridge, to whom, I am told, it was lent by the King. Another story which fascinated his Majesty very much was "The Hole in the Wall," which, when it first came out, he read straight through three times, and now frequently dips into.

One of the several big London houses which are in the market either to be let or sold has been taken for the season by Lord Londesborough, who

at one time had a town residence in Grosvenor-square.

This fact speaks for itself that Lady Londesborough is recovering from her accident some weeks ago in the hunting field. She was to have gone abroad with Lady Ida Sitwell, Lord Londesborough's sister.

Lady Ida Sitwell is the wife of Sir George Sitwell, to whose seat in Derbyshire a curious circumstance is attached. There is in the grounds an apple-tree the blossoming of which heralds the death of the owner, no matter what time of year it is.

A story I remember in this connection has always impressed me very much, for it came from someone in the house at the time. It was mid-winter, the snow was lying on the ground, and a large party was staying in the house for a dance. At breakfast the next morning someone remarked upon an extraordinary sight he had seen in the grounds—an apple tree in full flower. Gloom descended on those assembled, the party was broken up hurriedly, but within a few days the head of the house lay dead.

## Drawing-rooms in Mayfair.

There is a positive craze nowadays for originality in some shape or form. People are tired of the

ordinary wall-papers, and are devising all sorts of novel schemes in the way of mural decoration.

Valuable pictures let into simply-painted walls find a great deal of favour, but Mrs. William Peel, who is just settled into her new house in Grosvenor-street, has struck an entirely novel note. Extremely clever with her fingers, she has herself embroidered all the panels of her drawing-room, which is a most artistic apartment, full of pretty things.

## Society Needlewoman.

Lady Carew, another expert needlewoman, has for years been copying some old needlework panels which are in the drawing-room at Castle Boro', Lord Carew's Irish seat. When it is realised that each panel takes something over two years' assiduous work to complete, one can understand the magnitude of the task and the patience and skill it must require.

Then Lady Viola Talbot, Lord Shrewsbury's only daughter, is another most accomplished needlewoman. Her chief talent lies in the making of lace, though she embroiders beautifully as well. She is talented in many other ways, being an expert motor driver and, having a wonderful head for business, has given valuable practical assistance in the management of her father's motor business in London, regularly attending at the office and writing many business letters.



OUR SATURDAY SHORT STORY.

THE DE VERE DIAMONDS.

I.  
When the circumstances which I am about to relate happened, I was head assistant in the establishment of a well-known firm of Bond-street jewellers.

It was towards the close of March, 1864, that the senior partner called me into his private room.

"I suppose you are aware, Edwards, that several firms in the trade have combined to maintain the market value of stones?" he began.

I assented, and may mention for the benefit of the uninitiated that "stones" is the trade term for diamonds.

"The natural consequence is," continued Mr. R., "that many of us have a good deal of money locked up in stock which is difficult to realise. So, after consultation with my partner, we decided that he should endeavour, in a quiet way, to push the sale of some of the better-class goods which are encumbering our safes."

"That I knew, sir," I interrupted; "and I suppose the cases I got out for you yesterday were for that purpose?"

"That's just where the trouble comes in," and the speaker sighed heavily as he spoke. "Yesterday afternoon I received a note by a commissionaire which purported to come from Mr. S— (the junior partner). 'There it is; read it for yourself.'"

I took the note, which was written on a sheet of thick note-paper bearing the well-known crest of a family among whom we will call the De Veres. It ran as follows:—

"Dear R—, I am showing a lot of stones to Lady de V., who is nibbling, but wants a better selection to choose from. Send me, by bearer, a couple of rivières, and a bracelet or two—something about two hundred and fifty guineas each. I want to strike while the iron's hot, and don't care to leave my cases, not even here.—Yours, 'WALTER S—'."

"You know Mr. S—'s handwriting?" asked my principal as I finished reading the letter.

"Why, of course I do, sir," I replied.

"And you think he wrote that?"

"Certainly. I could swear to it anywhere."

"So I thought. Yet when Mr. S— called at my house last night, and I carelessly asked him how he had got on with the De Veres, he knew nothing whatever of the matter; had, in fact, been at Brighton all the afternoon, where he had transacted some unimportant business."

"And the stones?"

"Have fallen into the hands of a very clever set of rogues."

I was silent from astonishment. In our trade we rather pride ourselves on outwitting the professional thieves who are always on the look-out for a "big thing" in diamonds, and that we should

have been duped was a severe blow to our business amour propre. The more we talked the matter over, the more convinced we were that the robbery was the result of a deeply-laid plot carried out by experienced swindlers. They must in the first place have procured some of the De Vere stationery, and a commissionaire's uniform, and one of the gang must have been physically suited to play the part of an ex-soldier. They must have kept a close watch on the proceedings of Mr. S—, and, finally, they had someone in the gang who was an expert forger, or the handwriting of Mr. S— could never have been so successfully imitated as to deceive the head of the firm.

"I suppose you will place the matter in the hands of the police?" I asked, when the modus operandi of the thieves had been fully discussed.

"Indeed I shall do nothing of the sort," was the prompt reply; "and I must ask you not to say a word about it to anyone. Better the loss of the money than let the public know how we have been tricked. You know what stones are entrusted to us for safe-keeping, and good-bye to the confidence of our best-paying customers if they know we have been so easily taken in. No; I shall mention the robbery quietly in the trade in order that others may be on their guard; but no detectives or newspapers paws for us, thank you."

II.  
I have mentioned above that there was a sort of combination in the trade to keep up prices. In face of this it was necessary to push the trade in stones a little; and means were resorted to for this purpose which would, under ordinary circumstances, have been considered infra dig. One of these was the formation of a "contribution" rivière. Each firm selected the purest and best diamonds it had in stock, and these were all made up into one beautiful ornament—a really splendid thing—which was "shown" in the window of one of the "syndicate" firms, who, of course, gave security for its safety. Two days after it had been placed in position a rather shabbily-dressed man, accompanied by a female of mature age, who was plainly and inexpensively attired, entered the shop. He asked to see one of the members of the firm, and on that gentleman coming forward the caller handed him a card bearing the name of a well-known diamond merchant in Amsterdam. In very fair English he briefly explained his business. He had a commission from one of the European courts for a necklace, which was intended as a wedding present at the approaching nuptials of a Prince of the blood. His journey to England was to purchase suitable stones. He had already bought some; and from a chamisio-lined pouch, which he drew from an inside pocket, he produced several brilliant stones which he wanted to match. The principal of the establishment listened gravely. "Mein sister knows quite so much of diamonds

as meinselt," remarked the customer quietly; "she was what you call der best business man of the 'two, hein?'"

The woman smiled grimly, but continued her examination of the stones in a very businesslike manner. But of those shown none seemed satisfactory.

"You haf not others?" inquired the customer. "I would these two stones match, if so could be," and he singled out two of those he had brought with him.

The principal took-up one to examine it, when he was struck by a curious fact—it was one of the stones which had been stolen from our firm! He and other members of the trade had received an exact description of the booty which the thieves had managed to secure; and the stone now in his hands—a "blue rose face" as it was termed—certainly formed part of it. Very calmly did the jeweller decide on his course of action. He walked to the window—an assistant, of course, keeping a watchful eye on the counter meanwhile—and came back with the "combination" rivière in his hand.

There may be stones in this that would do for you," he remarked quietly. "It is not made on order, and we could, of course, part it if necessary." The shabby customer expressed surprise at the



The woman smiled grimly, but continued her examination of the stones.

beauty of the stones. He took the ornament in his hands and examined it carefully. The woman spoke to him in some foreign tongue—Dutch presumably—and he answered with an emphatic, "Yah," which, as everybody knows, means "Yes." Then turning to the jeweller he said: "Dot is a fine collection of stones. Vot is ze price?"

"Eighteen thousand five hundred pounds," was the prompt answer.

Again did the curious pair closely examine the rivière, stone by stone. Then the man spoke. I will not reproduce his quaint English, suffice it to say that he made the jeweller a proposal, it

might almost be called an offer. The idea had struck him that the rivière, perfect as it was, would be better for the purposes of the wedding present referred to than a necklace. He would like to make the proposition by wire, and if it were entertained he would call the next day and conclude the bargain. Of course he did not carry £18,000 about with him; but he had loose stones to the value of at least half that amount, and he would give a draft on his bankers at Amsterdam for the balance. After a few moments' consideration the jeweller—much to the surprise of his assistant—accepted the terms, and the couple left the shop. Of course he did not take the rivière with him, but was to do so the next day on making payment for it.

III.  
As soon as the queer customers had left, the jeweller took a hansom to our place; he had a long confabulation with our principals, to which I was admitted, and the result was that the workmen of both shops were very busily engaged until nearly six o'clock the next morning.

Some five hours after the weary "setters" had been dismissed to their beds the Dutchman and his sister entered the shop, in the window of which blazed "A rivière of perfect diamonds," as the showcard declared. He brought with him a telegram which he had received that morning—a genuine document as far as the Post Office was concerned. It came from one of the European capitals, and announced in good German that "rivière, if stones perfect, will do."

After this, the matter was concluded with the promptitude of men long used to business transactions of magnitude. The Dutchman produced a miscellaneous collection of loose stones, and an inventory of their description and value. The jeweller checked the inventory, examining the stones, and making one or two slight alterations in the price list; then the customer produced a blank form, and gave a draft on a well-known firm of Amsterdam bankers, with all the readiness of a man accustomed to draw out such documents. The rivière was brought from the window, in its purple plush and velvet case, was handed over to the Dutchman, who, after a phlegmatic "gods day," took his departure.

Hardly had he left the shop when Mr. S— came out from the jeweller's private room.

"Now then, S—," said the jeweller, with a laugh, "just see if you recognise any old friends here," and he pointed to the stones which he had just received from the queer customer.

Mr. S— hurriedly examined the stones, and then exclaimed:—

"By Jove! they're all here except two or three little ones; and here are a couple of 'roses' and four 'peaks' which weren't in my lot at all."

"So much the better," said the proprietor of the establishment; "that'll pay for the 'settings,' won't it?"

"But I can't understand—" began the puzzled assistant.

"Can't you? Well, just put that back in the window," said his master, handing him a diamond rivière, which he took from his pocket.

"Why, that's the one!" cried the astonished assistant.

"Of course it is," was the laughing reply. "And our worthy friend has gone off with a capital imitation of paste stones which it took six men nearly all night to put together."

THE END.

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